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U.S. Deficit In Trade Set Record In January

\$17 Billion Shortfall Reported as House Votes Steel-Import Curb

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade deficit soared to a record \$17 billion in January, the government reported Thursday, as economic weakness around the world pushed American exports down for the fourth straight month while imports surged to record highs.

The Commerce Department reported that the trade deficit shot up 21 percent from December's \$14.1 billion level and surpassed the old monthly record of \$16.7 billion set in August.

The trade deficit with China rose 23 percent to \$4.9 billion, as U.S. imports there fell to their lowest level in two years.

Prime Minister Zhu Rongji will travel to Washington on April 8 even as American lawmakers grow more concerned

Japan trade surplus falls. Page 11.

about the widening trade imbalance and reports of intelligence leaks to China, including reports of Chinese theft of nuclear technology from the Los Alamos laboratory.

The trade figures were released one day after the House of Representatives dealt a harsh setback to the Clinton administration's free-trade policy by approving a bill that would strictly limit the amount of steel imported into the United States.

The bill, responding to a surge of cheap imports that has hit the U.S. steel industry over the last year, is one of the most protectionist pieces of legislation to pass either house of Congress in recent years.

By setting import ceilings, it would almost certainly violate the rules of the World Trade Organization, and for that reason most major American steel companies did not actively support the bill.

The 289-to-141 vote, one short of the two-thirds margin needed to override a presidential veto, displayed the division in President Bill Clinton's Democratic Party over his free-trade policies as well as the increasing draw of protectionism among Republican lawmakers.

The trade commissioner of the European Union, Sir Leon Brittan, said Thursday that the bill "is, of course, highly protectionist in character," and if it ever became law would be "a matter of real concern."

A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate. But opponents predicted that it was likely to die in the more free-trade-oriented upper chamber or at least fall well short of getting the 67 votes needed to override a likely presidential veto.

Commenting on Thursday's trade report, Commerce Secretary William Daley noted that the decline in U.S. exports was accelerating as the global troubles that began in Asia have now spread to Russia and Latin America.

"We must all focus on improving economic conditions abroad while ensuring that foreign markets are open to American firms," Mr. Daley said at a briefing.

The trade deficit grew to \$16.99 billion after narrowing in December to a revised \$14.055 billion. Before the report, analysts expected a January deficit

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The Dollar			
New York	Thursday 4 P.M.	previous close	
Euro	1.0972	1.0986	
Pound	1.6297	1.6305	
Yen	117.575	118.17	
DM	1.7828	1.7789	
FF	5.979	5.9663	
Dollars per pound and per euro			
The Dow			
Thursday close	percent change		
+118.21	9,997.62	+1.20%	
S&P 500			
+18.73	1,316.55	+1.44%	
Nasdaq			
+34.00	2,462.97	+1.40%	

Newsstand Prices			
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	11.3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroun	1.600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 QR
Egypt	CE 5.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Gabon	1.100 CFA	Senegal	1.100 CFA
Italy	3.000 Lit	Spain	250 Ptas
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA	Tunisia	1.250 Dh
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. Mtl. (Eur.)	\$1.20



A Kosovar family near the town of Prizren on Thursday fleeing combat on a tractor-trailor.

Deadline Extension Likely on Kosovo

Ethnic Albanians Sign Autonomy Accord

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — Peace talks on Kosovo concluded Thursday night with representatives of the ethnic Albanian majority in the province signing an agreement on autonomy that was worked out by international mediators, but with Serbian authorities still refusing to accept it.

That left France and Britain, co-chairmen of the talks, with little choice but to declare the negotiations over, since most of the Albanians plan to leave Friday.

Western diplomats said Thursday night that the French foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, and the British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, who were in Bonn on Thursday, would end or suspend the talks Friday, possibly giving the Serbs until next Wednesday to change their minds.

That would give Serb delegates one last chance to go to Belgrade and President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia a last chance to accept agreement before the alliance would be forced to decide to make good on its long-standing threat to bomb Serbian military targets if he stands in the way of peace. Serbia's stubborn refusal to com-

promise appeared to be having the effect of making the allies more determined than ever to show that this time they mean business.

President Jacques Chirac of France conferred with military and security advisers on Thursday, and the mood in Paris was one of grim resolve.

[The United States said Thursday that American and NATO forces were ready to strike Serb targets "very quickly" with cruise missiles and bombs but were unlikely to act on Kosovo until diplomats, Western observers and aid workers were removed from Yugoslavia, Reuters reported Thursday from Washington.]

[The Defense Department spokesman, Ken Bacon, said that the Kosovo peace talks in Paris were "in their terminal stages" and that Yugoslav military forces were attacking ethnic Albanians in Kosovo in violation of earlier agreements.]

Some 30,000 to 40,000 Serbian troops and special policemen continued deploying in and around Kosovo on Thursday into positions that could allow them to start a large-scale offensive against Albanian positions or retaliate against the Albanians for NATO air strikes. Those deployments

See KOSOVO, Page 10

Chinese See 'Cold War' Spy Charge

Officials Call Washington Press Conference to Reject Allegations

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Chinese officials here called a rare news conference Thursday to reassert a forceful denial that China had spied on a U.S. nuclear weapons laboratory.

He Yafei, minister-counselor at the embassy here, said that the reports of Chinese theft of nuclear technology from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico were "completely unfounded and irresponsible."

The Chinese officials said they hoped to clear the air and "overcome difficulties and obstacles" before a visit by Prime Minister Zhu Rongji next month.

Mr. Zhu himself had dismissed the

reported espionage as a "tale from 'The Arabian Nights'."

The espionage charges have crystallized congressional opposition to China on a range of topics, and played a role in a one-sided vote Wednesday by the Senate in favor of building a national missile-defense system. On Thursday, China expressed "serious concern" about that vote.

According to news reports, China gained access to secret information at Los Alamos in the 1980s that allowed it to build miniaturized nuclear warheads.

The spying allegations have complicated the often prickly relationship at a time when both governments have been striving to normalize it; critics have, for example, cited the charges as grounds to

oppose Chinese membership in the World Trade Organization.

Mr. He said that the Chinese scientists who have taken part in exchange programs at U.S. nuclear laboratories have respected the "strict parameters" placed on their activities. He suggested that military researchers in China were as well-equipped as their U.S. counterparts — perhaps even "more clever" than the Americans — to make nuclear breakthroughs.

Mr. He, asked why he thought the spying charges had surfaced if there was nothing to them, said: "Some people in the United States are not happy to see any progress in the relationship between China and the United States. They still

See CHINA, Page 3

Goethe's Return From Grave Revealed

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — In a secret operation conducted in 1970, East German scientists exhumed the body of Goethe, carried the great poet's corpse off to a nearby museum, worked on its preservation for three weeks, and then returned the remains to the Prince's Crypt in the city of Weimar.

Reiner Schlichling, an official at the Weimar Classics Foundation, which oversees the city's cultural heritage, said Thursday that the operation amounted to "a routine check-up by scientists."

He added that Goethe's bones had been strengthened and his sarcophagus given a new lining, "but nothing else was changed."

Details of the extraordinary exhumation, carried out at night on Nov. 2, 1970, by the former Communist state, are contained in a file with an appendix of several photographs that had lain unnoticed in Weimar's National Goethe Museum for the past 29 years. Mr. Schlichling confirmed the authenticity of the file.

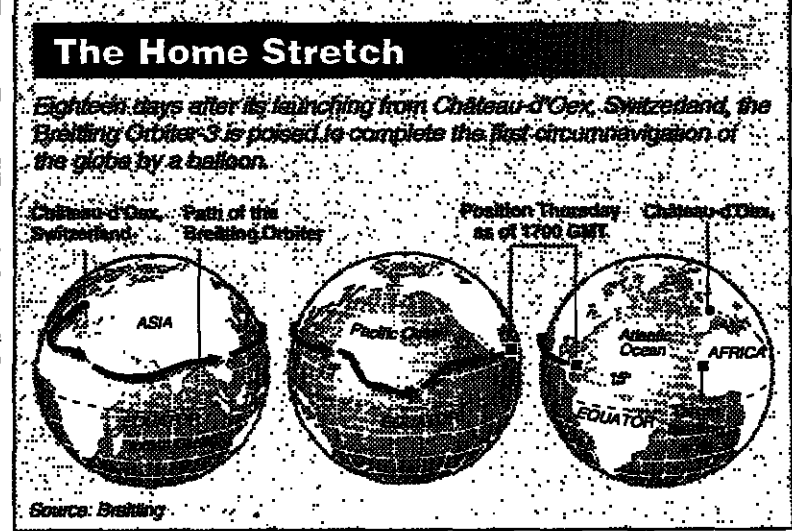
The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper printed photographs Thursday apparently taken in 1970 of Goethe's vacated stone coffin and a detailed account

of the scientists' findings drawn from their "Report Concerning the Inspection, Removal, Maceration and Return of Goethe's Mortal Remains in November, 1970."

The term "maceration" refers to the technique used by the scientists whereby remaining fragments of Goethe's flesh were stripped from the corpse by steeping in fluids before the poet's bones were cleaned and strengthened with a special preserving agent, Mr. Schlichling said.

Goethe, whose most famous work, "Faust," tells of one man's pact with

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Balloonists Close to Goal

Team Gets Go-Ahead to Start Across Atlantic

By Malcolm W. Browne
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Having floated some 20,000 miles over Europe, Africa, Asia, the Pacific Ocean and Central America, the Breitling Orbiter-3 was heading into the home stretch on Thursday in its bid to become the first balloon to circle the world nonstop.

If the balloon's crew, Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Brian Jones of Britain, catch and keep a favorable jetstream across the Atlantic, they will enter the record books as winners of the last great goal of ballooning, succeeding where all others have failed.

Only last week a British balloon, the Cable & Wireless, was forced to end a round-the-world attempt, ditching in the Pacific Ocean.

[The balloonists said Thursday that they were determined to forge ahead across the Atlantic and were hoping for a landing in North Africa this weekend, Reuters reported.]

[Mr. Piccard, in a radio conversation with the flight director, Alan Noble, in Geneva, said: "The absolutely only way to fail would be to quit now. We are both of the opinion we have enough fuel to do it."]

[Mr. Noble, a British engineer in command of the Breitling Orbiter-3, said Thursday that the balloonists had a 90 percent chance of success.]

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AGENDA

Court Rejects Appeal to Bar Starr Inquiry

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court Thursday dismissed an effort by a private legal group to halt the Justice Department's inquiry into possible misconduct by the Whitewater prosecutor, Kenneth Starr.

The special three-judge panel that selects independent counsels rejected a

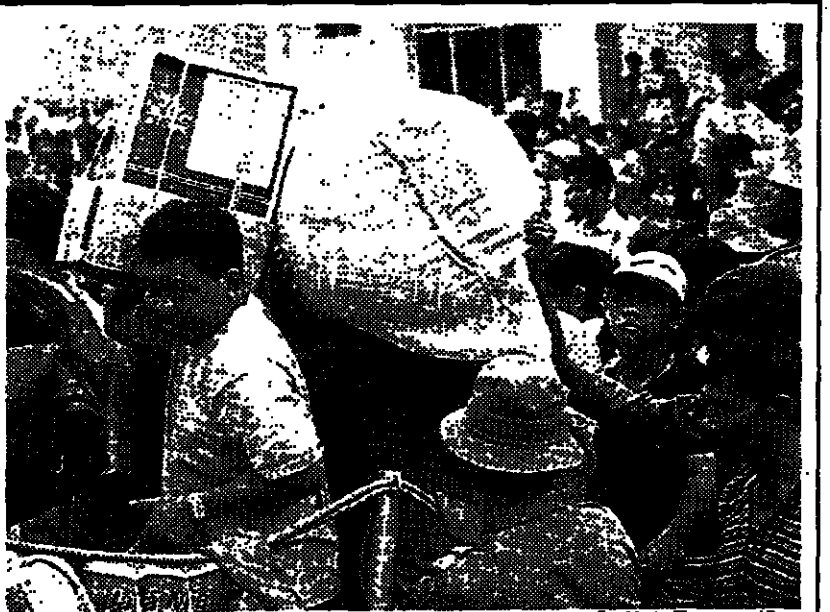
challenge from Landmark Legal Foundation, a conservative law group, that sought to block the Justice Department inquiry on grounds that the agency lacked the authority to discipline independent counsels. It was uncertain Thursday what impact if any the court's ruling would have on the Justice Department inquiry.

EU Summit Unlikely to Select President

A German government spokesman said Thursday it was unlikely that European leaders would decide on a new president for the European Commission at their summit meeting in Berlin next week.

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany was touring European capitals looking for consensus on a group to replace the EU executive body. Page 4

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FLEEING EAST TIMOR — Residents of Dili boarding a ship Thursday amid fears of escalating conflict. An independence advocate warned of possible army disruption to a ballot on the island's future. Page 5.

In Russia, Mystery Over Nude Video and Prosecutor

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Six weeks ago, Russia's chief prosecutor, Yuri Skuratov, submitted his resignation and disappeared, causing a scandal.

As that scandal took on new and ominous dimensions, Mr. Skuratov returned to public view — twice — on Wednesday. The first time was in the Federation Council, the upper house of Parliament, where he announced that he planned to remain in his prosecutor's post, openly defying President Boris Yeltsin.

The second time was on a midnight news program by a state television channel where, for a few minutes, Mr. Skuratov, who is 46, appeared as the star of a black-and-white videotape, naked and in bed with two

young women, also naked, neither of them his wife.

The first scene rocked an uneasy political truce here, setting the stage for another showdown between President Yeltsin and his opposition, which seems to be gathering strength daily.

The second — clearly aimed at discrediting the latest hero of the Yeltsin opposition — sets a new low for Russian politics, which long ago lost all ideological luster and is now sinking to the level of mudslinging.

[After meeting Thursday with both Mr. Skuratov and Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, Mr. Yeltsin directed the Russian Security Council to form a commission to investigate Mr. Skuratov's alleged "misdeeds, which bring disgrace to the honor of a prosecutor, and his violations of the prosecutor's oath." The Associated Press reported.]

[It was a rare step backward for Mr. Yeltsin, who has fired dozens of top ministers and officials over the years without issuing any justification.]

[The commission is to assess whether the alleged misdeeds are true, and to investigate the methods used to discover them, said a statement released by Mr. Yeltsin's press office. It is also to look into whether Mr. Skuratov's privacy was violated and whether his office had exceeded its powers. The commission is to be headed by Nikolai Bordyuzha, who is both secretary of the security council and presidential chief of staff.]

"There are two conclusions you can draw from this affair," said Pavel Voshchanov, a radio commentator and former press secretary to Mr. Yeltsin. "The first is

See SEX TAPES, Page 10

IOC Reforms Olympic City Selection Rules

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — In an effort to curb the corruption that has tarnished the selection process for Olympic host cities and sparked a winter of widespread discontent, the International Olympic Committee formally adopted a new system Thursday that curtails the direct contact its members will have with the six cities bidding for the 2006 Winter Games.

No longer will scores of IOC members be flown to candidate cities to be whisked around venues and restaurants — or local department stores — in high style. No longer will the full IOC membership vote on a full list of candidates.

Instead, a small electoral college will narrow the field, and, in an implicit attempt to limit the potential for corruption, the bulk of that electoral college will be chosen the morning of the vote.

"It makes sense, because there is much less risk that some talks or negotiations or any other maneuvers can take place," said Marc Hodler, the IOC member from Switzerland who gave the Salt Lake City bribery scandal considerable momentum in December by claiming that some of his fellow members' votes were for sale.

On the final day of this emergency session, the IOC also released a detailed financial report for the first time since 1993 and approved the formation of two committees: an ethics commission, which is intended to function as a watchdog on IOC activities; and a study

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Former Prostitutes and the Men / Remedial Classes

San Francisco Program Fights the Street Sex Business

By Evelyn Nieves
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — The 60 men were slumped in their chairs, heads in their hands, weary with the weight of screaming insults from a former prostitute.

"I hated you!" she shouted at the men, who snapped to attention as if they had been pinched.

"I wanted to stick a knife in you!" she yelled, jolting an old man so hard that he knocked his glasses off his face.

It was not even lunch time and the men had already endured a prosecutor's hourlong lecture on the law against soliciting, close-up color slides showing the effects of venereal disease, and three other angry former prostitutes.

In the afternoon there would be more lectures — from police officers, business owners and residents of prostitution-plagued neighborhoods. And for this daylong humiliation in a drafty room in the San Francisco Hall of Justice, the men paid \$500 and considered themselves lucky: their first arrest for soliciting sex would be wiped from their records, never to haunt them.

Unless they get caught a second time.

This effort is San Francisco's answer to the world's oldest profession.

Modeled after those daylong traffic schools for errand drivers, the First Offender Prostitution Program — or "john school," as people call it — is confronting the sex trade by trying to drum some sense into those who perpetuate it.

The police say the program, the first of its kind, is working splendidly. Of the 2,181 men who have taken the class since it began four years ago, only 18 have been re-arrested and prosecuted after their names were checked against the program's list of participants. The program's success has created such a buzz all over the country that several cities, including Fresno, California; Las Vegas; Toronto, and Nashville, Tennessee, have created similar programs, and others are considering them.

No one contends that the program will stop prostitution, especially because massage parlors, escort services, strip clubs and other fronts for the sex trade persist. But with an aggressive outreach program that helps prostitutes find an alternative to street life, and relentless police undercover operations that arrest the men who buy sex, the first-offender program, the police say, has led to a sharp, visible drop in San Francisco's outdoor sex trade. For a city of nearly 800,000 people, the level of street prostitution is small, reduced to one or two spots.

"If you'd seen this before, it was like a sex bazaar," Lieutenant Tom Buckley said as he led



Tracy Helton, left, and Angel Cassidy are former prostitutes who help San Francisco reduce street prostitution in a program for first-time offenders. Above, city police officers carrying out an arrest.

an operation one night in a neighborhood called Polk Gulch with four police decoy prostitutes (three women and a man) and four teams of three officers who carried out arrests. Cars with single men kept circling around one block where an officer stood shivering in a halter top and Spanx tights. In four hours on a slow night, the team arrested 43 men, and virtually every one of them opted for the john school over prosecution.

Results like these have given the first-offender program its considerable attention. Last fall, the program won a \$100,000 innovation in American Government award from the Ford Foundation, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Council for Excellence in Government. As a result, many law-enforcement officials from across the country want to observe the program. Last month, 45 officials from seven cities — Portland, Oregon; Seattle; Pittsburgh; Washington; Jacksonville, Florida; Springfield, Missouri; and St. Paul, Minnesota — visited San Francisco.

To Norma Hotelling, a former prostitute who co-founded the program in 1995 with a police lieutenant and an assistant prosecutor, the most exciting part of the effort against street sex is the SAGE Project, a nonprofit service organization she runs to help prostitutes and other women.

Since it began as a small outreach group in 1992, Ms. Hotelling said, the organization, which receives some of its money from the first-offender program, has helped 500 young women

get off the streets. Fifteen of those now work full time at the project.

"There is no other city doing what we're doing," she said. "Everyone just arrests the women and throws them in jail. But we're getting them off the streets, getting them vocational training, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on the medical care the city spends on these women."

ORGANIZATIONS advocating the legalization of prostitution, including Coyote and the Sex Workers Alliance of Vancouver, have criticized Ms. Hotelling and the john school for emphasizing the victimization of prostitutes at the hands of pimps and customers. But a recent study of 130 local prostitutes, Ms. Hotelling said, found that 68 percent had been raped — almost half at least five times — and that 82 percent had been otherwise assaulted.

And the stories told by former prostitutes at the john school, reminiscent of the prison horror stories that inmates tell youths in "scared straight" programs, have a palpable impact on the men in the class.

At a recent class, the men — of all ages and races — were clearly mortified by the women's stories, squirming in their seats and often looking down at the floor as they were lectured.

Angel Cassidy, a dark-haired woman in her 30s who said she started working the streets when she was 14, told the men that she lied when

clients asked whether she was a heroin addict.

"I'd have needle tracks all up and down my arms and say no," Ms. Cassidy said.

She had engaged in unprotected sex, she said, even though she had fantasized about maiming the men. Several men shuddered.

Ms. Hotelling's story was a surprise. At 47, her street days nine years behind her, she looks like a suburban mom, dressed in coordinating jacket and slacks, her blond hair efficiently short.

After showing the grisly slides of what venereal disease does to sexual organs, she quietly said she knew all about prostitution.

"I was a prostitute for 20 years, and a heroin addict," she said. "I planned on sticking a knife in a john, any john, and thank God for you and me that I got out before that happened."

The men also heard stories about the customers who did not get away — men who were robbed and stabbed by prostitutes. At the end of the day they walked out of class looking spent.

As they left, one man agreed to give his assessment of the class, anonymously.

"I thought it was harmless," the man, a 40-year-old computer technician, said of his soliciting an undercover police officer for oral sex.

"I know I'm harmless. But I think when they talked about the diseases they had, that really made me sick. That and the slides. I don't want to risk getting caught again, either."

The next time he felt a certain urge, he said, his face reddening, he would rent a movie.

Blast Hurts 4 Near Istanbul While Ocalan Talks of Peace

Reuters

ISTANBUL — An explosion rocked a suburb of Istanbul on Thursday, wounding four people, according to initial reports.

The Anatolian news agency said the blast took place at a building in the Samandira district of the city, hit in recent weeks by a wave of violence. Police attribute the attacks to Kurdish separatist rebels hitting back for the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdistan Workers Party chief. The cause of the blast was not immediately clear.

Mr. Ocalan faces a possible death penalty on treason charges.

The Kurdistan party, fighting a 14-year armed campaign for Kurdish self-rule, has denied responsibility in the recent attacks.

Earlier Thursday, the Turkish military, apparently in response to Mr. Ocalan's declaration that he will portray himself as a peacemaker at his trial, said it would never negotiate with him.

"While combating terrorism the General Staff has never negotiated with the bloody terrorist organization and it is not possible to do so in the future," Anatolian quoted the military as saying in a statement.

Mr. Ocalan had issued a statement through his lawyers saying his rebel Kurdistan Workers Party was committed to "a democratic, peaceful political compromise."

His statement was at odds with recent party calls for an increased armed struggle targeting Turkey and tourist sites in the country.

Military Supports Election

Turkey's top general on Thursday declared the military's opposition to an attempt in parliament to cancel next month's elections and lift restrictions on Islamic politicians, saying it would create chaos. The Associated Press reported from Ankara.

The chief of the general staff, Huseyin Kivrikoglu, made his remarks in an interview published by the newspaper Hürriyet before discussions in parliament over a no-confidence vote on Premier Bulent Ecevit's two-month-old, minority government.

U.S. Probes Bosnian Role By Kin of Albright Deputy

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department and the FBI are investigating contacts made in Bosnia two years ago by the brother-in-law of Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, government officials say.

Some of those contacts involved the payment of thousands of dollars from an associate of Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader who has been indicted for war crimes, about the time the Talbott relative, Cody Shearer, tried to arrange Mr. Karadzic's surrender.

Currently, the State Department Inspector General's office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are trying to determine whether Mr. Shearer misrepresented his ties to the Clinton administration in his dealings with the Bosnian figures, several officials said.

It is not known whether they are investigating the money transfer.

For his part, Mr. Shearer has told authorities he received mail threats from Bosnian figures who claim he took the money in 1997 with promises to lend money for Mr. Karadzic on the war crimes charges.

They have demanded that he pay the Karadzic family \$1 million or risk "tragedy," Mr. Shearer says.

Mr. Shearer's lawyer denies any such deal and says the money his client received was reimbursement for expenses he incurred while helping the Karadzic associate.

The contacts include a meeting

Mr. Shearer had with the Karadzic family, a letter he received from Mr. Karadzic; his efforts to introduce a Karadzic associate, Dragan Hajdukovic, a physicist, to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, in 1997, and his efforts to assist Mr. Hajdukovic's advocacy of a Bosnia peace plan, according to documents and interviews.

Mr. Karadzic was indicted by the war crimes tribunal in 1995 but has not surrendered for trial.

Documents show that U.S. officials knew Mr. Shearer was dealing with Mr. Hajdukovic to arrange a possible surrender by Mr. Karadzic as early as the summer of 1997.

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Talbott was told about it.

A year later, when reports surfaced that Mr. Hajdukovic was promoting a plan that would undo the 1995 Dayton peace accords for Bosnia, Mr. Talbott sent a letter to Mr. Shearer suggesting that such contacts were better left to the U.S. special emissary for the region, Robert Gelbard.

Mr. Shearer's lawyer, William Murphy, said his client received payments of less than \$25,000 from Mr. Hajdukovic in the fall of 1997 and the money was used as reimbursement for expenses and a donation to a group Mr. Shearer runs.

Mr. Shearer is the brother of Brooke Shearer, who is married to Mr. Talbott.

Rwanda Panel Frees Suspect in Belgian Killings

The Associated Press

ARUSHA, Tanzania — A United Nations tribunal prosecuting crimes related to the 1994 Rwandan genocide decided Thursday to free a former Rwandan army officer suspected of involvement in the killings of 10 Belgian peacekeepers.

Prosecutors had asked that the charge of crimes against humanity, unrelated to the deaths of the Belgians, be dropped against Bernard Ntuyahaga and that he be handed over to Belgium for prosecution.

But the three-judge panel at the UN Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda ruled that it did not have the authority to turn a suspect over for prosecution in another country. The judges did agree to drop the charge against Mr. Ntuyahaga.

It was unclear whether Tanzanian authorities would arrest Mr. Ntuyahaga for extradition to Belgium or whether he would be freed. Under an agreement with the UN tribunal, Tanzania must wait 15 days before it can arrest a released suspect.

"That's the biggest issue," said Mohammed Othman, a tribunal prosecutor. "Now it is up to the Tanzanian authorities."

U.S. Diplomat for Kosovo Had Been Accused of Lying

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A senior State Department officer, now the head of the American delegation to the Kosovo peace talks, may have lied when he testified before Congress three years ago about death squads in Haiti, according to an investigation by the State Department's inspector-general.

Despite the conclusions of the inspector-general's office, in a report in February of 1998, the diplomat, James Dobbins, remained in high-level government positions and has been promoted.

The inspector-general, Jacquelyn Williams-Bridges, concluded that Mr. Dobbins "acted with reckless disregard" for the consequences when he testified before the House International Relations Committee on two occasions. The testimony was "incomplete, misleading and possibly perjurious," the report said, adding that Mr. Dobbins presented testimony his colleagues warned him was slanted, and failed to exercise the integrity expected of a senior Executive Branch officer.

Mr. Dobbins testified about an investigation into the death of a politically prominent Haitian. He said that the only word he had received about the inquiry by the FBI was that it was continuing.

The inspector-general had evidence, in fact, that the bureau had

briefed Mr. Dobbins on its work, which had ended in frustration and a lack of cooperation from the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, which the United States supported.

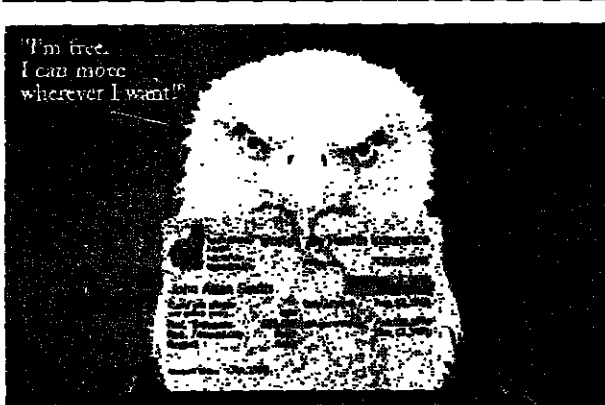
The internal investigation, which was never made public, has come back to haunt Mr. Dobbins, a 56-year-old career diplomat who has won numerous awards and honors. Last month, he was named the secretary of state's special envoy to the Balkans, replacing Robert Gelbard. At the time of his testimony, he was the senior State Department coordinator of Haitian policy.

The existence of the inspector-general's 700-page report on Mr. Dobbins was disclosed by two Clinton administration officials who are opposed to the appointment.

Mr. Dobbins, who challenged the inspector-general's report, declined on Wednesday to discuss it publicly.

James Foley, deputy State Department spokesman, said Wednesday, "The allegations were thoroughly investigated, and it was determined that Ambassador Dobbins testified in good faith and did not intentionally mislead Congress."

In his testimony, Mr. Dobbins was defending Washington's Haiti policy, which was under attack at the time by Republicans, who are also using Mr. Dobbins to strike out at the Clinton administration's policy on Kosovo.



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Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

TRAVEL UPDATE

Rio Courts Gay Tourist Trade

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) — Shopping for new niche markets after gaining a bad reputation for urban violence, Brazil's beach resort city of Rio de Janeiro has found gay travelers to be the hottest new ticket in tourism.

"More and more mainstream travel businesses are looking at us and at how much gays and lesbians spend," said Richard Gray of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association. Eager to cement relations with this burgeoning trade, Rio made a special effort to co-sponsor the Association's Brazil meeting.

"We think this is a line of tourism that brings a lot of profit to the city," said Ingrid Heins of the city's marketing department. "It is a group of people who mostly are very high positioned in life and have a lot of money to spend," she said.

China will soon open a showcase nuclear research center, complete with an atomic bomb on display, to tourists, the Wenhui Daily said Thursday. It said Chinese and foreign tourists would be welcome at the China Air Dynamics Research and Development Center in Mianyang in the western province of Sichuan.

The U.S. State Department said in an advisory that it continued to receive reports that raise concern for the safety of U.S. government officials and private citizens abroad. "We take these threats seriously, and the U.S. has increased security at United States government facilities worldwide," the advisory said.

Pilots of Royal Nepal Airlines refused to fly for the fourth straight day Thursday, ignoring a warning from management to show up for work or face suspension.


Europe

City	High	Low	High	Low
Amsterdam	20/18	12/10	21/10	13/10
Antwerp	20/18	12/10	21/10	13/10
Athens	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Berlin	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Birmingham	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Bombay	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Boston	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Buenos Aires	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Calcutta	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Cardiff	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Chicago	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Copenhagen	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Dallas	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Dhaka	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Dublin	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Edinburgh	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Hankow	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Hong Kong	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
London	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Los Angeles	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Lyons	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Manila	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Mexico City	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Moscow	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Mumbai	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Nairobi	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Paris	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Peking	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Rangoon	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Rio de Janeiro	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Sao Paulo	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Seoul	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Shanghai	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Singapore	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Sydney	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Taipei	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Tokyo	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Yokohama	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15

North America

City	High	Low	High	Low
Anchorage	42/30	28/16	43/31	29/17
Boston	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Chicago	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Dallas	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Denver	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Hankow	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Hong Kong	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Los Angeles	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Manila	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Mexico City	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Moscow	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Mumbai	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Nairobi	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Paris	18/16	8/6	19/17	9/7
Peking	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Rangoon	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Rio de Janeiro	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Sao Paulo	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Seoul	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Shanghai	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Singapore	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Sydney	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Taipei	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Tokyo	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15
Yokohama	28/24	18/14	29/25	19/15

Asia



North America

Dry and mild weather from the Midwest to the Northeast. Settlers in the Midwest will be followed by favorable weather, but the rain and mountains in California State reach the Rocky day.

Europe, forecasts

North America

City	High	Low
Anchorage	41	41
Atlanta	21/18	12/10
Boston	21/18	12/10
Chicago	21/18	12/10
Dallas	21/18	12/10
Denver	14/11	14/11
Detroit	21/18	12/10
Honolulu	28/24	18/14
Los Angeles	28/24	18/14
Miami	28/24	18/14

Legend: s-snow.

THE AMERICAS

Senators Wary About Letting Reno Investigate Misconduct

By Dan Morgan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — With the independent counsel law due to expire June 30, key members of the Senate's Governmental Affairs Committee have expressed uneasiness about turning over to Attorney General Janet Reno most of the power for investigating cases of misconduct by high officials.

Unless Congress acts, the Justice Department will automatically assume responsibility for investigating cases of high-profile corruption, except when Ms. Reno appoints a special counsel of her choosing to look into such cases.

But as that prospect looms, there are signs that a coalition of Republicans who distrust Ms. Reno and Democrats with memories of Watergate may be forming around proposals to salvage the law, or at least preserve some of its principles at

the Justice Department.

"When the attorney general says, 'Give me even more discretion and I'll do the right thing ...' said the committee chairman, "based on some of our experiences, that causes me some concern."

The chairman, Fred Thompson, Republican of Tennessee, has said in the past that he leans toward letting the 21-year-old independent counsel law die.

Senator Arlen Specter, Republican of Pennsylvania, who supports the reauthorization of a revised independent counsel law, declared, "As the hearings have progressed, some have begun to rethink their opposition."

As the committee held its third in a series of hearings on the law, varying degrees of support for the independent counsel law, or concern about the impact of simply allowing it to die, were heard from a bipartisan group.

It included Susan Collins, Republican of Maine; Joseph Lieberman, Democrat of Connecticut; Carl Levin, Democrat of Michigan; and Daniel Akaka, Democrat of Hawaii.

"The basic function of the law is still a valid one," said Mr. Lieberman, the panel's ranking Democrat.

That position was, however, strongly challenged by Ms. Reno, who was the committee's principal witness Wednesday.

She testified that the law, under which the special counsel Kenneth Starr investigated President Bill Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern, was "structurally flawed."

"And those flaws," she said, "cannot be corrected within our constitutional framework."

At the same time, Attorney General Reno indicated reservations about sev-

eral proposals put forward for increasing public confidence in the independence of Justice Department investigations involving high officials, if the independent counsel law expires.

She described as "unworkable" a proposal that would give the Justice Department's Public Integrity Section new status and independence while it probed misconduct by senior administration officials.

When she was asked about the proposal to appoint the head of the Public Integrity Section for a fixed term of five or seven years, subject to Senate confirmation, Ms. Reno said it would "create far more problems than it would solve."

She also expressed doubts about a plan by Common Cause, the public interest advocacy group, giving new powers to the assistant attorney general in charge of the Criminal Division.

Drafters of the proposal included Archibald Cox, who was the first Watergate special prosecutor, and a Harvard Law School professor, Philip Heymann.

Both have reversed their early support for the independent counsel law.

Their proposal would give the head of the criminal division almost complete independence from the attorney general during investigations of high-level misconduct.

Ms. Reno said their idea was "interesting."

But she cautioned that limiting the power of the president or the attorney general to remove the head of the criminal division might interfere with the chief executive's constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws.

"It is a difficult issue, and I don't think that moving the boxes around is going to solve the problem," she said.

CHINA: Spy Charges Rejected

Continued from Page 1

have that Cold War mentality." Undercurrents of anti-Chinese sentiment swell up "whenever there is improvement in the Sino-U.S. relations, whenever there is an important summit that is going to happen," he asserted.

Mr. He said there was no reason, however, that the world's most powerful developed country and its most populous developing country could not cooperate.

The U.S. energy secretary, Bill Richardson, who is responsible for the nuclear weapons laboratories, has ordered tighter controls on electronic mail and electronic transfers from the labs, but has rejected the idea of ending scientific exchanges.

He has instituted a policy of background checks on visiting scientists from sensitive countries, ordered stricter controls on secret documents, and called for a re-examination of the department's counterintelligence files. He told a Senate committee that he had no evidence that secrets had leaked out via e-mail, but that electronic transfers were "a potential problem."

Earlier this month, Mr. Richardson fired Wen Ho Lee, a contract employee at Los Alamos of Taiwanese descent, on suspicion of leaking sensitive information to China. He has not been arrested.

On Wednesday, the Senate, many of its members clearly angered by the reports of espionage, voted, 97 to 3, to endorse construction of a national missile defense as soon as "technologically possible." The bill did not specify a time frame or provide a budget for the system.

A version of the missile bill was being debated Thursday in the House of Representatives. Early indications were that it would pass, but by a less one-sided margin than in the Senate.

China fears that a U.S. missile umbrella, if extended to parts of Asia as U.S. strategists are considering doing, would encourage independence sentiment in Taiwan, which it claims as a province.

Prime Minister Zhu expressed China's blunt opposition to such a defense program this week. He said a theater missile defense would violate international agreements, encroach on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China, and interfere with its internal affairs.

Clinton Aide Warns of Reaction

Norman Kempster of the Los Angeles Times reported earlier:

A senior White House official has warned that attempts to punish China for nuclear espionage could backfire, causing Beijing to modernize its antiquated atomic arsenal, a step that would increase the danger faced by the United States and its Asian allies.

"If we treat them like a threat, they may become one," said Gary Samore, President Bill Clinton's point man for the controversy touched off by reports that a scientist at Los Alamos had leaked secrets to China.

Mr. Samore's comments Wednesday to a seminar organized by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace were crafted to launch an administration counterattack on Republican critics. Those critics have accused Mr. Clinton of covering up Chinese espionage to avoid damaging U.S.-Chinese commercial relations.

Despite what Mr. Samore conceded was a "compromise of sensitive technology" 15 years ago, China has not updated its nuclear force, which includes about 20 missiles capable of reaching the United States and 300 or so more within range of Japan, India and Russia.

So far, China has not deployed the miniaturized warhead technology that it is suspected of stealing from Los Alamos, apparently because the leadership in Beijing has determined that a more powerful nuclear force is not worth the high cost it would involve, Mr. Samore said.

But, he added, if Chinese leaders perceived that Washington was becoming hostile to them, they could order a nuclear buildup.

Ecuador Ends 60-Day State Of Emergency

The Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador — Ecuador's president ended a 60-day state of emergency and lowered gasoline prices Thursday, hoping to defuse a bitter standoff that had led to three days of anti-government protests.

The announcement followed days of intense negotiations between President Jamil Mahuad and opposition leaders on austerity measures the president said were needed to rescue the nation from its worst economic crisis in decades.

At the presidential palace Thursday morning, Mr. Mahuad said he had reached an agreement with leftist and center-left parties in Congress to approve reforms, including higher taxes to pay off the nation's huge budget deficit.

In return, Mr. Mahuad rescinded measures announced last week that more than doubled gasoline prices. These measures had provoked often-violent protests and street barricades by taxi drivers, bus drivers, leftist-led unions and Indian groups in this poor nation of 12 million people.

Strike leaders have not reacted to the announcement or said if they would end their protests, but a revocation of the gasoline price increase had been their main demand.

Some taxi barricades remained in place in the streets of Ecuador's major cities Thursday morning, but many had been removed and the flow of traffic started to return to normal after three days of near-paralysis.

The strikes had led to fears of political instability and calls for Mr. Mahuad, who took office seven months ago, to resign.

Ecuador's economic crisis was set off by El Niño floods last year, which caused \$2.6 billion in damage, and low world prices for oil, Ecuador's main export. Annual inflation is nearly 50 percent, the highest in Latin America.

To cope with the crisis, Mr. Mahuad ordered Ecuador's banks closed all last week to prevent a run on deposits. Then he announced harsh austerity measures that increased gasoline prices, partly froze bank accounts for six months to a year, and proposed increasing taxes and speeding up privatizations.

The decision to partly freeze bank accounts to protect Ecuador's shaky financial system will stay in place, the president said Thursday.

He did not mention the privatization issue.

Taxi and bus drivers had argued that the doubling of gasoline prices was driving them to poverty and making their businesses unprofitable. Food prices doubled, and many Ecuadorians supported the strikers.

Mr. Mahuad's chances of passing the tax increases had dimmed earlier this week when the powerful conservative Social Christian Party, which had voted for many of his proposals in Congress, announced that it opposed the tax plan.

Farrakhan Near Death

CHICAGO (Reuters) — Louis Farrakhan, the head of the Nation of Islam, is gravely ill, his group's newspaper said.

In an article in "The Final Call" and posted on the group's Internet site, Mr. Farrakhan was described as "struggling to overcome the forces of death." The article said, "He has been gravely ill since the beginning of January." Neither the newspaper nor Mr. Farrakhan's headquarters could be reached Thursday for elaboration.



General David Hale: "Words cannot express my shame."

General Is Fined \$22,000 in Sex Case

By Rene Sanchez
Washington Post Service

FORT LEWIS, Washington — An army judge has reprimanded retired Major General David Hale and ordered him to pay \$22,000 in penalties for having had sexual affairs with the wives of officers subordinate to him and then lying about it to Pentagon investigators.

General Hale, wearing a formal green uniform replete with medals, showed no emotion Wednesday as the judge, Colonel Stephen Saynisch, announced his punishment at the conclusion of a case that became a test of military justice and of the army's willingness to deal with transgressions by senior officers with the same severity it shows to lower-ranking soldiers.

General Hale, who pleaded guilty to eight charges, was the first officer of his rank to be court-martialed since 1952 and the first army general ever prosecuted in retirement.

General Hale was sentenced to pay a \$10,000 fine and forfeit \$1,000 a month of his retirement pay for one year. Under the charges, he could have lost his rank and all or most of his \$75,000

annual pension, and he faced 11 years in prison.

Army prosecutors, who declined to comment on General Hale's punishment, had requested jail time for the two-star general and decorated Vietnam veteran.

Colonel Saynisch did not offer any commentary in his ruling, which followed hours of emotional testimony that depicted General Hale as both a military hero and a disgrace.

In a tearful courtroom speech, General Hale expressed remorse for his actions and asked for forgiveness. He also apologized to the army and to the officers under his command, whom he acknowledged he had deceived and betrayed.

"I have no excuses," he said.

"Words cannot express my shame."

The sentencing ends one of the most sordid sexual-misconduct cases the army had ever made public, and it has implications for the entire U.S. military.

It was the latest in a series of sex scandals to roil the armed services in recent years, and the case raised questions about whether senior officers who had been accused of violating military

law got softer treatment than enlisted personnel.

Army officials acknowledged the seriousness of that issue in their ranks when they urged Colonel Saynisch to give General Hale a harsh sentence because it would "send a message" that the military did not have double standards.

In closing statements to the judge, Major Michael Mulligan, the army's lead prosecutor in the case, denounced General Hale as a "moral coward" whose behavior had violated a sacred trust among officers.

"The trust that's broken cannot be put back together," Major Mulligan said. "We have a higher standard," he said, than most citizens or politicians: "Our word is our bond."

The army initially filed 17 charges against the general but settled on eight after he agreed Monday to plead guilty.

He was court-martialed on seven counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and one count of making false official statements.

Until this week, General Hale had denied all the charges for nearly a year.

POLITICAL NOTES

A Competitive N.Y. Race

NEW YORK — As Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani test the waters for Senate campaigns next year, a New York Times/CBS News poll shows that New York state voters hold strongly partisan opinions, but also nagging reservations, about both politicians, indicating that a contest between them would be highly competitive.

The survey shows Mrs. Clinton leading Mr. Giuliani in several categories at this early juncture. A larger number of voters — 48 percent to 39 percent — view her favorably, saying they think Mrs. Clinton is more caring and would likely be more effective than the Mr. Giuliani, a Republican.

But the survey also showed that a significant number of voters, 4 out of 10, think that the first lady would not be an effective representative for New York in the Senate because she has never lived in the state. (NYT)

Starr Tactics Challenged

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — Attempting to put Kenneth Starr's tactics on trial, lawyers for Susan McDougal want to call the Whitewater prosecutor's top deputy to the witness stand.

But U.S. District Judge George Howard, acting on a request from Mr. Starr's office, ruled Thursday the defense must first provide a better summary of their questions for Deputy Independent Counsel Hickman Ewing.

Mrs. McDougal is charged with criminal contempt and obstruction of justice for failing to answer questions before Mr. Starr's grand jury. Her lawyer, Mark Geragos, has portrayed her as a mistreated pawn in prosecutors' overzealous pursuit of President and Mrs. Clinton.

The legal wrangling came as Mrs. McDougal's lawyers prepared to call their first witnesses. The prosecution rested its case Thursday after seven days. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Janet Reno, the U.S. attorney general, on why she is now prepared to abandon the independent counsel statute: "My change of heart about this statute has not come lightly. To those who question me about this or who tell me that they told me so, I can only say this: I've now seen how the statute operates close up, probably more close up than anybody in this country. And I know more than I did before." (NYT)

Panel Splits Verdict on Medical Marijuana

By David Brown
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The active substances in marijuana may be moderately useful for treating such problems as pain, nausea, and appetite loss, but smoked marijuana has little future as a medicine, according to a panel of experts advising the federal government.

The long-awaited review, coming after several states legalized marijuana for medical use, was immediately seized upon by advocates of marijuana as an endorsement of their position.

"We are very pleased with this report, which clearly shows there is

scientific evidence that marijuana has bona fide therapeutic effects for some patients," said Chuck Thomas, director of the Marijuana Policy Project. "Patients already using marijuana should be given the benefit of the doubt, and should not be arrested."

The report, prepared by 11 scientists convened by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, specifically warned against smoked marijuana because of the risk of lung damage.

Therapeutic marijuana smoking should be permitted only in a few short clinical trials designed to assess claims for marijuana's usefulness as a pharmaceutical, it said.

A Heartburn Link to Cancer

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Chronic heartburn can greatly increase a person's risk of developing one of the deadliest of cancers, adenocarcinoma of the esophagus, a major new study has shown.

Overall, in the study, having chronic heartburn increased the risk of cancer by nearly eightfold. Among patients with long-standing, severe heartburn, the risk of developing esophageal cancer was 43.5 times as great as for people who did not have this problem.

Heartburn results when the acidic contents of the stomach back up into the esophagus. Known medically as gastroesophageal reflux disease, heartburn has been the subject of much commercial attention in recent years following the development of new prescription and over-the-

counter drugs to alleviate the problem. The findings of the study, conducted among more than 1,400 people in Sweden, were published in Thursday's issue of The New England Journal of Medicine. The study is the most comprehensive examination to date of the relationship between reflux disease and cancer.

The strength of the findings prompted the authors to conclude that chronic reflux is a likely cause of esophageal adenocarcinoma, which develops in the tubular organ that transports food and drink from the mouth to the stomach.

American experts said that through periodic examinations of the esophagus in people with chronic heartburn, it is possible to detect precancerous changes in the esophageal lining and provide treatments that prevent the development of cancer.

Barry McCaffrey, the White House official responsible for drug policy, who requested the report, said he endorsed it "thoroughly," and called it a "significant contribution to discussing the issue from a scientific and medical viewpoint." He said he would not oppose limited studies of smoked marijuana until a less-harmful way of inhaling the substance's active ingredients was found.

"I would note, however, that the report says smoked marijuana has little future as an approved medication," Mr. McCaffrey said.

The panel reviewed published medical studies on marijuana's physiological effects and possible clinical benefits, and took testimony from researchers and patients.

The claims for marijuana are very broad. People have used it as treatment for nausea caused by chemotherapy, appetite loss arising from AIDS, the painful spasms of multiple sclerosis, the pain of migraine headache, the sight-threatening condition glaucoma, and the memory loss of Alzheimer's disease.

Reliable data on the drug's benefits, however, have been hard to get. The Drug Enforcement Administration places marijuana — along with heroin and several other addictive drugs — in the category of substances with "a high abuse potential."

This has made research on patients unusually difficult.

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EUROPE

Ignore Us at Your Peril, Triumphant EU Deputies Signal to Member States

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — In their pharisaic palace on a Brussels hilltop, members of the European Parliament are relishing a political victory and are determined that the 626-member assembly should play a full role in the appointment of the European Commission.

After years of being the butt of jokes describing it as either a talking shop or a gravy train, the Parliament is waking up to its responsibilities as Europe's democratic voice. The inquiry into corruption initiated by the Parliament, which led to the resignation of the entire 20-member commission, the executive body of the European Union, has enabled it to occupy the moral high ground.

Member governments, which nominated the commission, were "glaringly silent" on its mismanagement, said Laurens Brinkhorst, a former director general at the commission and now a Liberal member of the Parliament. "The national parliaments don't care a hoot. Their ignorance is outstanding."

The result is a "major cultural shift" toward the European Parliament. "The time of accountability has started," Mr. Brinkhorst said.

The Parliament has made its breakthrough as a financial watchdog. Now it is demanding a greater political role, including a full right of consultation in the nomination of a commission president to replace Jacques Santer.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The Amsterdam treaty, which comes into force this year after ratification by national parliaments, gives the Parliament the right to participate in the choice of a new commission president. Jose Maria Gil Robles, the leader of the Parliament, says he will oppose any attempt by member governments to appoint a new president, either interim or permanent, without reference to the new rules.

That means the Parliament will demand a confirmation hearing as soon as a candidate is named, and another hearing immediately after Europe-wide direct parliamentary elections in June so as not to tie the hands of the new legislature.

The Amsterdam treaty recognizes the role of the Parliament as a co-legislator with the European Council, a 2,200-member secretariat representing the 15 member governments, and extends the assembly's powers of consultation, assent and joint decision. The commission has the task of initiating European legislation and ensuring that treaties are executed.

The Amsterdam treaty also gives the president-designate of the commission the right to choose his or her own team rather than having to accept government nominees as in the past.

Pat Cox, the leader of the parliamentary Liberal group, said: "The council cannot any longer pretend that Parliament is the junior partner."

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany, the president in office of the EU, is seeking consensus from other leaders on a candidate for commission president. He was scheduled to meet Mr. Gil Robles on Friday to discuss the results of his fact-finding tour of European capitals. And Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany was expected to

address a plenary session of the Parliament on Monday. Clearly, therefore, Germany was taking seriously the Parliament's insistence on being fully consulted at every step of the way.

Already the 1991 Maastricht Treaty on European Union gave the Parliament a role in the selection of a commission president. According to the treaty, "the governments of the member states shall nominate by common accord, after consulting with the European Parliament, the person they intend to appoint as president of the commission."

This procedure was first used in the nomination of Jacques Santer in 1994. Members of the Parliament take "consultation" to mean that if the government's nominee is rejected by a simple majority, the candidate would be withdrawn. This means that whoever is chosen as candidate must win the support of at least two of the three major groups in the Parliament — the Socialists, the Christian Democrats and the Liberals.

In 1994, the Parliament approved the appointment of Mr. Santer by a majority of only 18 votes after the Socialists

turned against him. They objected to the way a deal was stitched up over a compromise candidate after Britain rejected the Franco-German candidate, Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium, as too much of a federalist. That vote has lessons for today. "It means that never again should we elect a wimp," Mr. Cox said. It also signifies that Mr. Schröder and the other government leaders will ignore the Parliament at the risk of a political explosion.

Another reason why the Parliament insists on confirmation hearings both now and again after the election is that the Maastricht treaty establishes the terms in office of the commission and the Parliament as a concurrent five-year period.

This enables the confirmation hearings for the commission president to be held during the first parliamentary plenary session following the election. It also reinforces the claim of the Parliament to be the democratic watchdog over the commission, a role it fulfilled in a dramatic fashion by opening up a broad inquiry into fraud, nepotism and cor-

ruption at the executive that led to the executive's downfall.

Working in a 1 billion euro complex built largely of glass, members of Parliament are acutely aware of the danger of throwing stones. Long a byword for expense account fiddling, the Parliament is "a large soft target with an exposed underbelly," Mr. Cox said.

An new anti-fraud unit approved by the commission this week will have the right to investigate all EU institutions, including the Parliament.

Mr. Gil Robles argues that a members' statute adopted by the assembly in December, which defines uniform salaries and expense rules, should remove many of the grounds for criticism.

Members are currently paid at the same level as deputies in their home countries, which means that salaries range from 2,828 euros for Spanish members to 9,635 for Italians. The statute is now in the hands of member governments, some of which are having difficulty in explaining to national parliaments why the members of the European assembly should earn more.

EU Succession To Dominate Berlin Summit

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — A German government spokesman said Thursday that it was unlikely that European leaders would be able to decide on a new president for the European Commission at their summit meeting in Berlin next week.

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany, the current president of the EU, was touring European capitals looking for consensus on a new body to replace the EU executive body, which resigned earlier this week after a report blamed it for mismanagement and lack of control over instances of fraud, corruption and nepotism.

But he ran into opposition in Portugal and Spain, both of which see the commission as an ally against the bigger and wealthier EU states, and were seeking an interim solution to the power vacuum at the heart of Europe.

The Spanish minister for Europe, Ramon de Miguel, said a permanent commission should not be appointed until after elections to the European Parliament in June.

In Brussels, parliamentary political leaders said the president of the outgoing commission, Jacques Santer, would be rejected at a plenary session next week, unless he leaves before then. Parliamentarians said that if he attempted to stay on, even in an interim capacity, the assembly would vote to remove the entire commission. Mr. Santer, who was scheduled to meet with Mr. Schröder on Friday, said he wanted to leave his post "as soon as possible."

He and his 19 fellow commissioners have remained at their posts in a caretaker capacity because they are required to do so by the EU's founding treaty. They said they would take care of current business, but would not initiate new legislation.

European leaders, who are responsible for the nomination of a new commission, were faced with two choices. Either they could nominate an interim commission, probably including most members of the present body, or they could choose a new executive group that would take over the nine-month period remaining of the term of the present commission and then continue for a full five-year appointment.

But the Parliament is opposed to any solution that would preempt the June elections and deprive the incoming legislature the right to accept or reject the governments' nomination for president.

If no agreement is reached in Berlin, the German government has raised the possibility of another summit within a brief period specifically to deal with the commission problem. Germany's minister for Europe, Guenter Verheugen, said that leaders at the Berlin summit would probably decide whether to seek an interim or a permanent solution—but would not agree on names.

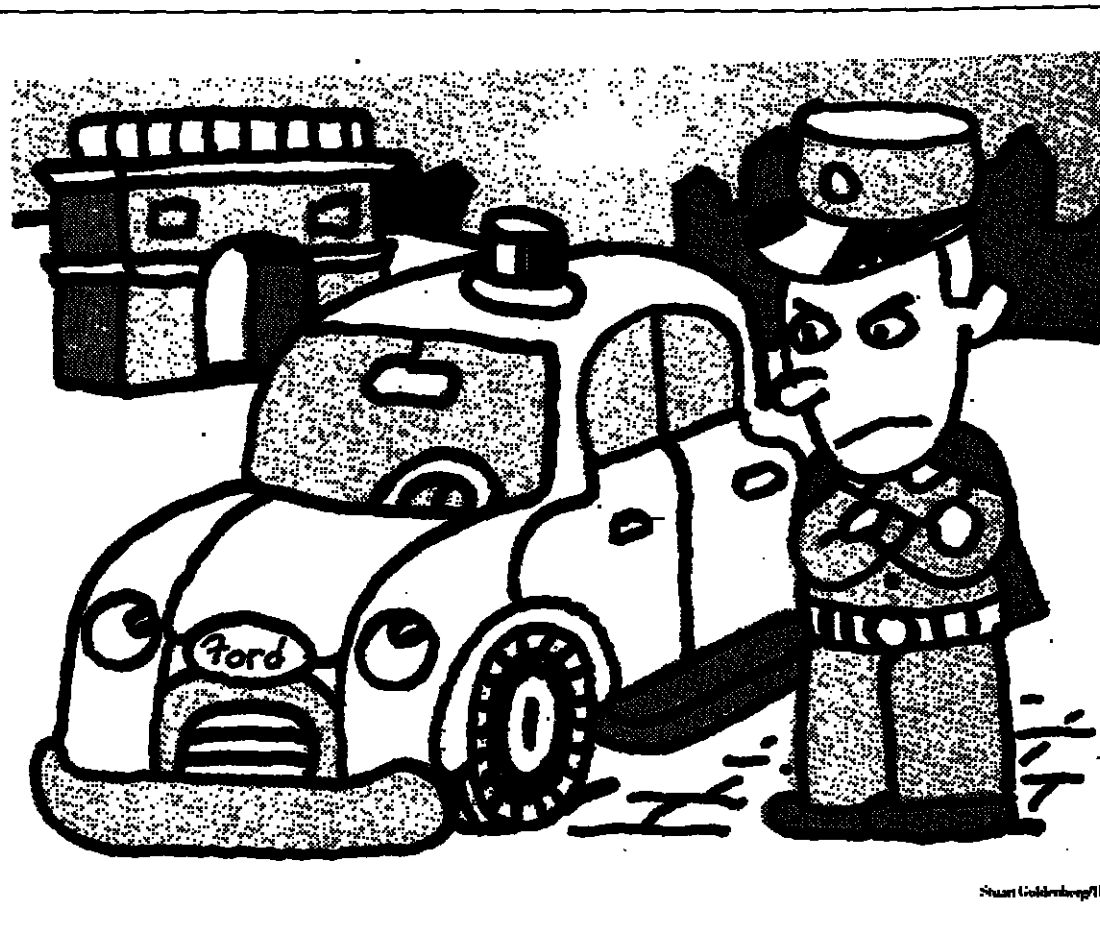
[Prime Minister Tony Blair on Thursday gave his tacit support to former Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy, Bloomberg News reported from London. Mr. Blair regards the Italian as a man of "very considerable ability," his spokesman said.]

[Spain floated the name of Javier Solana Madariaga, secretary-general of NATO, to fill the void left by the unprecedented resignation of all 20 commissioners this week, Bloomberg reported from Brussels.]

Both Mr. Schröder and Mr. Blair have said they want the commission to be replaced as soon as possible. Mr. Blair has protested that commissioners who leave in disgrace should not be eligible for golden handshakes when they leave. But a commission spokeswoman, Martine Reicherts, said on Thursday that none of the commissioners had personally been blamed of fraud and would receive generous payoffs.

Once they leave office, they will collect up to 60 percent of their salaries for the next three years. Manuel Marin, the Spanish commissioner who is the longest-serving member of the outgoing executive, will collect 124,836 euros (\$138,568) a year, not counting eventual pension payments.

Edith Cresson, the French commissioner whose nepotism and lack of control over an allegedly corruption-ridden education program led to the commission's downfall, will receive a salary of around 20 percent of her annual salary of 187,000 euros plus a further 50 percent for three years.



Fast Ford on the Champs-Elysees

French Police Break a Taboo and Buy From U.S. Carmaker

By Frederic Tomesco
Bloomberg

PARIS — French flics patrolling in Ford Fiestas?

The French government has dropped its insistence that French police drive only Renaults or Peugeot, as a recent order for 13,000 cars and minivans for Ford Motor Co. attests. Les flics now can patrol in Ford Escorts or Mondeo, too — and the cars do not even have to be assembled in France.

The decision, reported Thursday in the newspaper Le Monde, is another sign that France, which has taken pride over the years in resisting U.S. domination in food, films and slang, is softening outright resistance as it watches its own trade surplus expand.

The move breaks a long-established monopoly of buying only from Peugeot and Renault. French presidents have long proudly championed domestic cars. French leaders from Charles de Gaulle to Jacques Chirac have ridden into office in big Citroen sedans.

The decision also extends a cultural shift that has seen the French government — prodded by European Union regulations — privatize parts of state-owned companies such as France Telecom SA and let foreign airlines cut into Air France's domestic

monopoly in Europe's largest travel market.

"Europe is becoming a reality, even for cops," said Jean-Michel Prillieux, an analyst with Mavel SA, a Paris-based consultant to the car industry. "Ten years ago, an order of this kind would have been unthinkable."

"Who knows? Before too long, French ministers may drive around in Nissans," he added.

That idea seemed less preposterous this week after Renault said it wanted to buy a 35 percent stake in the Japanese carmaker for a reported 700 billion yen (\$5.9 billion).

The Ford contract, worth an estimated 1 billion francs (\$167 million), is part of a 24,000 vehicle, 1.7 billion-franc order by UGAP, the government agency that buys everything from hospital beds to computers. The remaining 11,000 cars will be purchased from France's two carmakers, PSA Peugeot Citroen and Renault SA.

"Price was the main criteria behind our decision," said Daniel Guilmann, the purchasing director at UGAP, which has a monopoly over the car purchases of all French ministries and municipalities. "For the remaining 40 percent, we look whether the car meets the demands of the municipality."

French Communists Opt For a New Look

Reuters

PARIS — The French Communist Party daily dropped the hammer and sickle from its masthead on Thursday as part of a facelift aimed at lifting flagging sales.

For the first time, the front page of the 95-year-old paper L'Humanite carried neither the party emblem nor the mention "Newspaper of the French Communist Party."

Robert Hue, the party leader, said the newspaper would operate independently of the party to be more professional.

Reflecting the political opening of the once-hardline French party, which is part of France's Socialist-led ruling coalition, few of the young journalists hired to work on the new-look newspaper are party members.

Mr. Hue, who took over the party five years ago, has veered sharply away from the Stalinist line of his late predecessor Georges Marchais.

U.K. 'Mad Cow' Deaths Surged in '98

By Sandra Blakeslee
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The number of people who have died in Britain from a human form of "mad cow" disease increased at an "alarming rate" at the end of last year, according to a scientific report to be published in the Saturday issue of The Lancet, a British medical journal.

From the beginning of 1996 through September 1998, the number of deaths reported each quarter year stayed relatively constant, said Dr. Simon Cousens, a scientist who is helping to track the disease at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Usually no more than four people died in any three-month period, he said. But in the last quarter of 1998, nine deaths were reported.

Given the steady death rate in previous years, the probability of observing nine deaths in three months is low, Dr. Cousens said. The deaths "are bad news rather than good news but how bad news

they are is difficult to tell," he told the British Broadcasting Corp.

"We are going to have to wait another six or nine months to see" if the increase continues.

Since 1995 when the human form of mad cow disease was first recognized in humans, 39 Britons have died from the disease. Three cases were confirmed in 1995, 10 in both 1996 and 1997 and 15 in 1998.

There has been one confirmed case this year. But the rise in deaths should be interpreted with caution, Dr. Cousens added. It is possible that doctors have gotten better at diagnosing the disease which in humans is called new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or variant CJD. Or the increase could be a statistical fluke.

But plenty of people in Britain are worried that an epidemic of mad cow disease in humans has begun. Two years ago, scientists from Britain's National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Surveillance Unit projected a low of 75 deaths and a high of 80,000 depending on the length of the

incubation period and how the infection is passed from animals to humans.

Neither has been determined.

The epidemic began in 1986 when a bizarre brain disease called spongiform encephalopathy began killing cattle in the United Kingdom. Infected animals developed holes in their brains; showed changes in personality, and began staggering in circles — hence the term mad cow disease. By the beginning of this year, 173,718 cows had been positively diagnosed with the disease while more than 4 million animals have been destroyed in an effort to stamp out the infection. Cows appear to have gotten ill from eating the rendered remains of infected cows.

Last year, Dr. John Collinge, a leading Creutzfeldt-Jakob expert at Imperial College in London, discovered that the tonsils of some victims carry an infectious particle, called a prion, that seems to be responsible for the disease. The infectious prions are found throughout nervous and lymphatic tissue, including tonsils, and may incubate for years.

Sinn Fein 'Can't Deliver' On Disarmament Demand

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The leader of the Irish Republican Army's affiliated political party said Thursday that he "simply can't deliver" a start now to the group's disarmament, one of the long-postponed goals of the Northern Ireland peace process.

The blunt talk from the Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, came on Capitol Hill after a particularly candid half-hour meeting Wednesday night inside the White House with his political rival, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader.

Mr. Adams said Mr. Trimble had asked him for "an event" in which a substantial range of IRA weaponry would be handed over to Northern Ireland's disarmament commission, which has waited nearly a year for the IRA to move. While Mr. Adams said he welcomed Mr. Trimble's "clearest definition yet of what he requires," he called the demand "a complete hindrance and precondition."

"And I can't stress enough, as I stand here, that I simply can't deliver that," said Mr. Adams, who was flanked by three congressional supporters in the House: Peter King, Republican of New York; Joe Crowley, Democrat of New York; and Richard Neal, Democrat of Massachusetts.

Mr. Trimble, the Protestant assigned to form a new Protestant-Catholic government for Northern Ireland, refuses to support Sinn Fein's eligibility for office unless the IRA starts disarming first. Their deadlock has jeopardized that central goal of last year's Good Friday peace accord.

President Bill Clinton brought the quarrel leaders together Wednesday night after a ceremony honoring George Mitchell, the former senator who chaired the peace talks. The president asked prayers for vic-

tims of the violence in Northern Ireland.

"The mood of my meeting with Gerry Adams was very serious," Mr. Trimble said in an interview before Mr. Adams' press conference. "While nothing was resolved, it was a good talk. I was glad to see that Adams this time was seriously thinking about the issue of decommissioning, rather than just repeating his old script."

"I feel quite optimistic that, in the end, we will overcome this difficulty, because there really is no alternative," said Mr. Trimble, calling the IRA's gradual disarmament "a question now not of whether, but when."

But in a comment suggesting he had little influence over IRA policy, Mr. Adams said Mr. Trimble's position was leaving the supporters of both their parties "dependent on an organization over which they have no influence."

The British government has set this year's Good Friday, April 2, as a deadline for a deal.

Priest Urges Inquiry Into Murder

The priest conducting the funeral Thursday of a Roman Catholic human rights lawyer killed in a car-bombing by pro-British guerrillas called for an independent inquiry into her murder, Reuters reported from Lurgan, Northern Ireland.

"It is absolutely necessary that an independent inquiry be set up to investigate the circumstances surrounding the appalling death of Rosemary Nelson," the Reverend Kieran McPartlan said.

Late on Wednesday, rioting erupted in nearby Portadown, a hard-line Protestant town. Gasoline bombs were thrown at police when they tried to break up a clash between Protestants and stone-throwing Catholics.

BRIEFLY

Holocaust Accord Falters in France

PARIS — A proposed banking deal to compensate French survivors of the Holocaust has fallen at the last hurdle because of differences among France's Jewish leaders, sources within the Jewish community said Thursday.

They said the accord was to have been signed Wednesday between the French Banking Association and Henri Hajdenberg, president of the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions, an umbrella organization representing France's Jewish groups.

Serge Klarsfeld, a Nazi hunter, confirmed that an agreement between the parties had been aborted at the last minute. (Reuters)

Belgium Unveils Stowaway Sensor

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium — Faced with a rising tide of illegal immigrants trying to enter Britain, officials in the Belgian port of Zeebrugge unveiled on Thursday a special electronic sensor to detect humans hidden in vehicles.

The electronic sensor detects the electric field generated by the beat of the nearest human heart. (Reuters)

Legionnaires' Toll Hits 13 in Holland

AMSTERDAM — An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at a Dutch flower show has killed 13 people and infected at least 50, the Health Ministry said Thursday.

As many as 200 visitors to the Westfries Flora show last month in Bovenkarspel, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) north of Amsterdam, have reported symptoms associated with the pneumonia-like disease.

Health officials intensified efforts Thursday to find the bacteria's source and opened additional call centers to answer questions from concerned citizens. (AP)

King of Norway Must Wait in Line

OSLO — King Harald must wait for hospital treatment like ordinary Norwegians, a local council ruled after accusing a member of the royal family of jumping a health queue.

A member of the royal family skirted the tax-financed public health system that requires Norwegians to put themselves on a waiting list at their local hospital for non-emergency treatment, the daily Aftenposten said Thursday. (Reuters)



Tommy Magee, father of Rosemary Nelson, a Catholic human rights lawyer killed by a car bomb, and Mrs. Nelson's son Gavin, helping to carry the coffin Thursday to a church in Lurgan, Northern Ireland.

TOSHIBA: MEETING THE VISIONS OF THE ADVANCED MARKETPLACE

With "Meet your visions," Toshiba affirms its intention to develop innovative products that meet the hopes and needs of its customers worldwide. More than that, the slogan also conveys the company's commitment to creating products that allow people to achieve their own visions and realize their full capabilities.

Toshiba is uniquely qualified for both goals. Its extensive product lineup extends from portable and desktop PCs to power generation and industrial systems. On the way, it embraces advanced storage systems, sophisticated system LSIs and other semiconductors and medical and imaging technologies. It's a range of technologically advanced products characterized by Toshiba's ability to anticipate and meet customer needs and to stay in the forefront of its markets.

The success of the company, now edging toward its 125th anniversary, is reflected in its results and scale of operations. In the fiscal year to March 31, 1998, worldwide sales totaled \$41.4 billion, while more than 186,000 employees support research and development, manufacturing, sales and marketing in 34 countries. All told, Toshiba invests the equivalent of 6 percent of total sales on a consolidated basis in R&D each year. In fiscal 1997, that added up to \$2.45 billion, assuring the market-leading features and capabilities of Toshiba's emerging products.

Strength in Europe

"Europe is one of Toshiba's key markets, and has been for over 30 years," says Hisatsugu Nonaka, president of Toshiba Europe GmbH, the European headquarters for the information and communications equipment businesses. Toshiba's pan-European sales in the year to March 1998 were \$4.1 billion, and are expected to grow this year.

In 1998, close to 24 million personal computers were sold in Europe. Figures from Dataquest show the market climbing to more than 36 million by 2002. In the same period, demand for mobile PCs is expected to double, from 3.3 million units to more than 6 million. Toshiba is ready for that expansion, Mr. Nonaka explains. "We are positioning Toshiba as an integrated provider, able to support our customers with total solutions in hardware and services."

Single media platform

Perhaps Toshiba is best known for its portable mobile PCs. The pioneer in mobile computing — Toshiba launched the world's very first laptop in Germany, back in 1985 — the company is also the perennial number 1 in the European and global market.

For all the talk of computers offering a minimal, stripped-down efficiency, the mobile computer segment flourishes because of its ability to offer more for less. Toshiba portable PCs are continually being beefed up with cutting-edge technologies, offering more power even as they become progressively lighter, slimmer and less expensive. Toshiba has taken this one step further. In the European market, where corporate customers account for most of Toshiba's IT business, innovation also means meeting the needs of IT managers by combining state-of-the-art product with a lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

The short life cycle of portable PCs — a few months at most — adds complexity to already cumbersome IT infrastructures. With the Tecra notebook series, that's no longer a problem. Tecra computers are based on a one-motherboard platform that can be configured with different processors, screens and other key components to create customized PCs. The underlying design philosophy keeps the basic platform up to date for as long as two years — well into 2000 for the current generation — and that translates into significant savings in TCO. A GartnerConsulting study on TCO commissioned by Toshiba Europe showed that Tecras can save corporate clients up to \$1,000 a year per notebook.

Toshiba's commitment to lower TCO also extends to the corporate desktop. The company's Equium 7100 series of business computers has been well-received for its full-featured functionality. Like Tecras, Equium computers are also built to support customers in achieving significant cost savings. GartnerConsulting shows that putting an Equium on the desk generates TCO savings of more than \$500 a year.



"We are positioning Toshiba as an integrated provider, able to support our customers with total solutions in hardware and services."
Hisatsugu Nonaka,
president of
Toshiba Europe
GmbH.



Toshiba's stand at the CeBIT trade fair, where it will showcase new products and technologies.

nerConsulting shows that putting an Equium on the desk generates TCO savings of more than \$500 a year.

Digital Convergence at CeBIT
In its support for business, Toshiba draws on the immense capabilities of digital convergence. That's made clear by the products the company is presenting at this year's CeBIT.

One must-see is the flexibility of ad hoc networking made possible by Bluetooth, the wireless connectivity technology Toshiba is promoting in a group formed with Intel, IBM, Ericsson and Nokia. Then there's the PDR-M4, a 2-million-plus pixel camera offering images rivaling those of conventional photography.

The PDR-M4 makes full use of SmartMedia, the small, nonvolatile memory card developed by Toshiba and currently available in 2, 4, 8, 16 and 32MB versions. Slipped into a floppy disk adapter or memory card, SmartMedia can load digital photos directly into a PC. It is also the ideal storage medium for MPEG videos and audio and voice files, as shown by Toshiba's new DMR-SX1 digital recorder. This holds up to 60 minutes of voice files on a 2MB SmartMedia card — which can be up-loaded to a computer hard drive in minutes.

Perhaps the most striking

feature of digitization is the freedom and widened horizons it has brought to users. A few years ago, people bought computers to use word processors or spreadsheets. Today's computers let them take all kinds of information — sound, images, text — and then to meld, link, transmute and transmit it as something new. It is all adding new qualities to business presentations, and much more.

"For many people seeking the most from a computer, the obvious choice is a notebook PC," Mr. Nonaka says. "They offer a high level of performance and then the plus of unsurpassed mobility." Toshiba is keen to take this even further. "To that, we want to add yet another dimension by providing the means to access data-rich resources and applications. That is what we are doing with DVD."

DVD, the digital versatile disc, offers the huge storage capacities necessary for bringing movie-length videos, with high-quality image and sound, to a CD-sized disc. And that's just one application. For games, "edutainment" and virtually all areas where computers are used, DVD promises a heightened, more realistic experience.

"We were a leader in introducing DVD drives to PCs," Mr. Nonaka recalls, "and we are promoting new advances, such as DVD-RAM." In fact, Toshiba pioneered key enabling technologies for DVD as it is also a major OEM supplier of DVD-ROM and DVD-RAM. Toshiba will continue to promote

development of DVD drives as sales surpass those of CD-ROMs, which is expected to occur in the early years of the coming century.

Agility and innovation

Its products are not the only area in which Toshiba seeks development. Fully conscious of the intensifying demands of globalization and mega-competition, the company is poised to put in place a new, more robust business structure that will provide the basis for continued success in the 21st century. Mr. Nonaka explains: "On April 1st, we will complete a comprehensive reorganization. We are recasting Toshiba as eight in-house companies and one new joint venture."

Each company will operate autonomously, have the resources required to be a strong contender in its market area, and is expected to meet rigorous performance targets. Toshiba Europe and the other companies supporting the computer business in Europe will become part of the Digital Media Equipment & Services Company.

"We are very excited by the forthcoming change," Mr. Nonaka explains. "We expect to see an even more focused business organization that will be more agile in dealing with market shifts." As Toshiba works to help others meet their vision, it seems the company is succeeding in meeting its own and is ready for a profitable future. ●

Products available from Toshiba Europe GmbH

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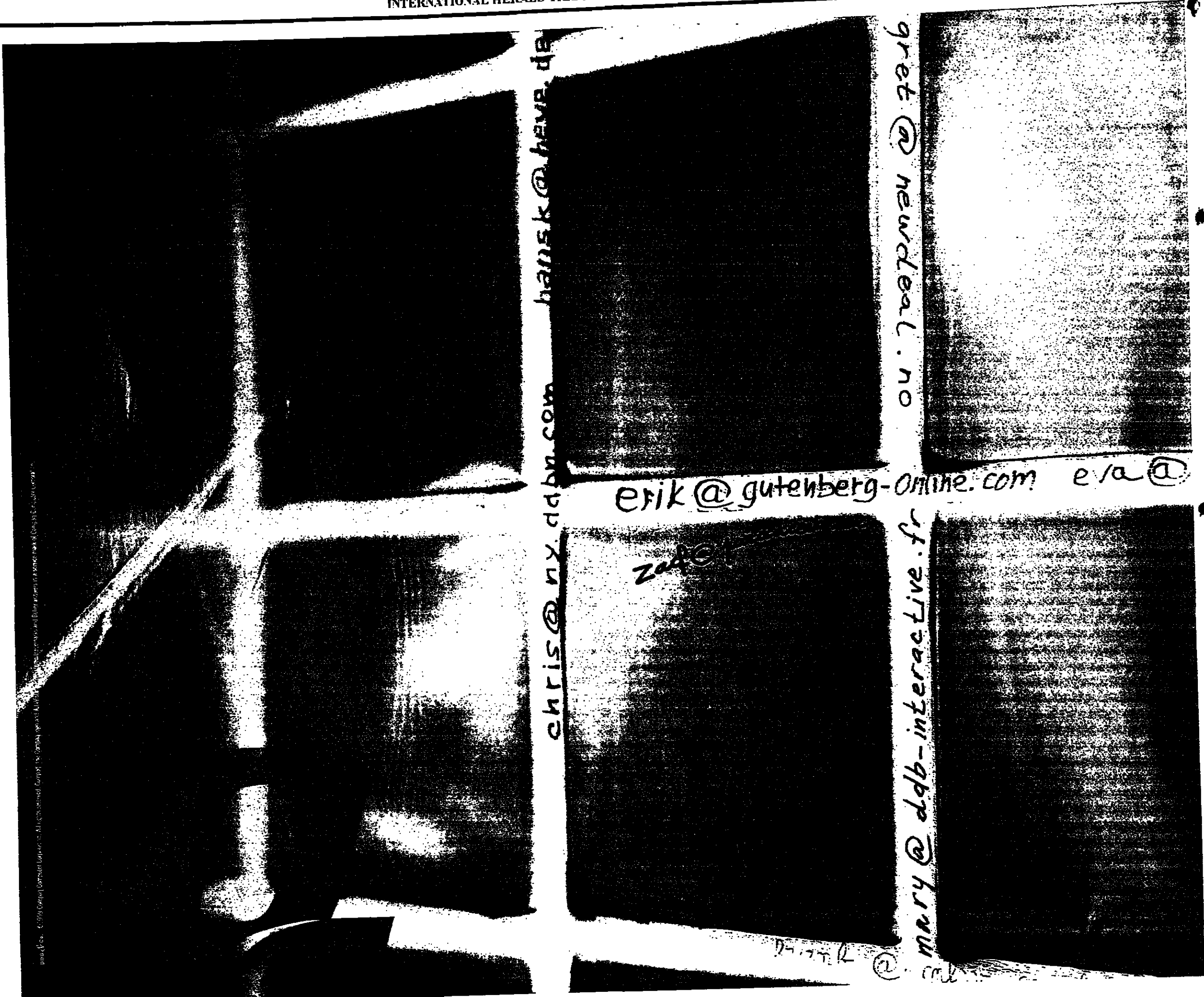
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ASIA/PACIFIC

South Korea and Japan Find a Way

Meeting Saturday Is Expected to Cement Their Reconciliation

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan and President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea hope to resolve most of their differences over North Korea when they meet Saturday to form a "unified policy" of reconciliation.

Both Japanese and Korean officials used such terms as "cooperation" and a "common strategy" toward the North to characterize the dominant theme of a summit meeting that also symbolizes what they see as a new era of goodwill between Japan and South Korea. The emphasis, they said Thursday, would be on "engagement" with the North, in accordance with Mr. Kim's sunshine policy of reconciliation.

They agreed that the task would be easier now that the North has said it will permit the United States to inspect a suspected underground nuclear site in exchange for agricultural assistance and food aid.

"Most important is the positions of the United States, Korea and Japan should be well adjusted," said Takeshi Hikihara, a Japanese diplomat here.

He admitted, however, what he delicately called "a slight difference in the weight of importance" attached by Japan and South Korea to North Korea's firing of a three-stage Taepo Dong-I missile over Japan on Aug. 31.

That remark reflected the Japanese determination not to gloss over the significance of the missile launching in the artificial atmosphere of a summit meet-

ing seen as a major step toward removing the stigma of the Japanese colonial era from the Korean consciousness.

Mr. Obuchi, in Tokyo, underlined this aim by saying that Japan would welcome the chance to conduct its own inspection of the underground site. That way, he said, his government would "find it easier to solicit cooperation from the Japanese people" in improving relations with North Korea.

While the issue of the suspect site was "a matter to be pursued by the United States and North Korea," Mr. Obuchi reminded the Japanese Parliament, "we have a profound interest in it."

Mr. Obuchi noted that his Parliament still must approve Japan's contribution of \$1 billion to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, set up under the 1994 Geneva agreement to build nuclear power facilities for North Korea in return for the North's abandoning its nuclear weapons program.

Mr. Obuchi's remarks showed a level of concern that far transcends that of South Korean leaders. Officials here have yet to suggest that South Korean officials participate in talks about it with the North, much less ask to see it, and Mr. Kim has sought to prevent the issue from clouding his sunshine policy.

Japanese officials for their part have not hidden their disappointment over what they view as Seoul's muted response to the firing of the missile. The warmth of the summit talks, the Japanese made clear, will not necessarily heal all the wounds of the missile-firing.

The Japanese people "have to wait and see if North Korea shows goodwill toward Japan," said Mr. Hikihara. Asked what Mr. Obuchi might see as such a sign, he responded, "there are so many ways to show goodwill."

Lingering disagreement over how best to deal with North Korea, however, is not likely to ruin the symbolism of the first visit by a Japanese leader to Seoul



WELCOMING AN ALLY — South Korean honor guards in Seoul bowing Thursday to Vice Admiral Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, who was visiting to discuss strengthening military ties.

since 1996. Mr. Oguchi arrives here Friday to complete a process that began with Mr. Kim's visit to Japan in October, during which Mr. Oguchi made a written apology for Japan's historic transgressions on the Korean Peninsula before and during 35 years of colonial rule.

"Both nations put the past behind them and established a new foundation on which they will build a new relationship

in the 21st century," said Japan's ambassador to Korea, Ogura Kazuo.

Mr. Obuchi faces what may be his most critical test when he talks on Saturday afternoon at Korea University, a prestigious private institution here, against a background of militant student protest. "I don't want to think about what will happen," said a Japanese diplomat, reviewing the latest draft of Mr. Obuchi's

speech. "We hope all will be calm."

Thousands of policemen were dispatched to guard the university, the scene of violent demonstrations against Korean leaders throughout the 1980s, while student leaders promised to block the entrance. "Mr. Obuchi has failed to show true remorse," said Kim Han Jin, a student. "We do not believe his apology. It was not sincere."

Chinese Emissary to Visit Taiwan And Will Discuss Reunification

The Associated Press

TAIPEI — China's negotiator with Taiwan will make his first visit to the island in autumn — months after Taiwan had hoped he would come — and reunification should be on his meeting agenda, a Chinese envoy said Thursday.

The issue has been a key stumbling block as the two sides take halting steps toward restarting negotiations on their often tense relations.

Taiwan wants to focus first on more mundane issues, such as fishing disputes, in order to build up the mutual trust needed to deal with the thornier issue of reunification. The two sides met in the morning and afternoon and announced that China's top negotiator with Taiwan, Wang Daohan, would visit the island.

But no date was set, even though Taiwan had hoped to get more details from a

lower-ranking Chinese negotiator, Li Yafei, who is going home Friday.

Though disappointed, Shi Hwei-yow, Taiwan's chief negotiator with China, called the discussions a "good start" and said Taiwan would send a lower-ranking Taiwanese official to China next month to continue talks on arrangements for Mr. Wang's visit.

Mr. Li told the Taiwanese on Thursday that Mr. Wang was unable to come sooner because of scheduling difficulties, but would make the visit sometime around September.

Mr. Li's Taiwanese counterpart, Jan Jyh-hong, said the government respected China's views on the timing of Mr. Wang's trip, but that Taiwan wanted to set a date before Mr. Li left. China froze talks four years ago in anger over Taiwan's efforts to assert itself internationally.

East Timor Peace Laureate Fears Disruption of Election

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — A week after the United Nations announced a plan for East Timor to vote on autonomy from Indonesia, a leading East Timorese advocate said here Thursday that the ballot should not be held until Indonesia withdrew some troops from the island.

"We oppose a vote without the troops first being out," said Jose Ramos-Horta, the exiled separatist leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 for his campaign to liberate East Timor from Indonesia. "The paramilitary's agenda is to disrupt the vote and intimidate the people."

Speaking to a small gathering in Hong Kong, Mr. Ramos-Horta declared that the momentum behind East Timorese independence was unstoppable. But he said that political elements were using the Indonesian armed forces to destabilize East Timor in advance of a vote on autonomy.

"The reality is that there are dark forces at work today in Indonesia," he said. "Power is very diffuse."

Under the terms of the United Nations-sponsored plan, the East Timorese would vote on a proposal giving them autonomy in late July or August. If, as many analysts predict, the proposal is rejected, Indonesia has indicated it would grant full independence to the province of 850,000 people.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and annexed it the following year. It has been racked by anti-government fighting ever since, with rights groups estimating that up to 200,000 East Timorese have died.

The turnaround in Indonesia's stance came last year, after the country slid into economic destitution and its longtime leader, President Suharto, was toppled. Indonesia's new president, B.J. Habibie, seems anxious to cut East Timor loose so he can focus on repairing the shattered economy.

Mr. Ramos-Horta said he feared that Indonesia's withdrawal from East Timor could become as chaotic as Portugal's was a quarter-century ago. He claimed that the Indonesian Army's intelligence unit was supplying weapons and training to militia groups that oppose autonomy.

Mr. Ramos-Horta also claimed the army had spent \$5 million over the last two months to supply weapons to paramilitary groups — suggesting the campaign was backed by potent forces in Jakarta, perhaps allied with Mr. Suharto.

"There is no potential problem of a civil war in East Timor," he said. "The big fish responsible for this are in Jakarta." Secretary of State Madeleine Albright raised similar concerns about the arming of an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 paramilitary troops in a meeting with Indonesia's foreign minister this month.

BRIEFLY

Burma Stalls on Visa Request

BANGKOK — The government of Burma balked Thursday at granting a visa request from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's British husband, who is suffering from prostate cancer and seeking to visit his wife, the pro-democracy leader and Nobel laureate.

In a news release, the military government expressed "great sadness" over the illness of Michael Aris. It said it was "reviewing" his visa request. Mr. Aris has not been granted a visa in three years.

The government said Mr. Aris's condition was "extremely grave" and its health experts were surprised that he would try to travel to Burma.

The government suggested that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, "who is in perfect health," travel to England "to respond to her husband's dying wish to see her." But the pro-democracy leader has refused to leave the country because she fears the government, which considers her a disruptive force, would not let her return. (AP)

Japanese Suicides Hit Record

TOKYO — More Japanese killed themselves last year than ever before as a prolonged economic slump contributed to a dramatic rise in suicides among middle-aged men, according to government figures released Thursday.

Suicides rose to 27,102 in the first 10 months of 1998, an increase of 38 percent from the year-earlier period, a Health and Welfare Ministry official said.

The number of suicides was 1,435 more than for all of 1986, the previous record year, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The suicide rate increased rapidly among men in their 40s, 50s and 60s, a group especially hard hit by rising job losses as Japan struggles through its deepest postwar recession. Japan's suicide rate is one of the world's highest, with 17.2 people per 100,000 people taking their lives each year. (AP)

Philippine Captives to Be Freed

MANILA — Philippine Communist guerrillas have agreed to release four captive army and police officers, possibly paving the way for a resumption of peace talks, negotiators said Thursday.

A formal agreement to free them on humanitarian grounds was signed in the Netherlands on Wednesday by a Manila peace mission and rebel leaders, said Jose Maria Sison, founder of the Philippine Communist Party, in an interview broadcast on Philippine television. (Reuters)

Crowds Kill 43 In Ethnic Riots On Borneo

The Associated Press

JAKARTA — Rival ethnic groups armed with knives and swords clashed Thursday in a remote corner of the island of Borneo, burning homes, dismembering victims and killing 43 people.

The head of one of the victims was paraded through a village by a crowd, a witness said. More than 500 houses were set ablaze and some victims were dismembered in two days of fighting.

The violence began Wednesday between four ethnic groups and immigrant farmers from the Indonesian island of Madura was apparently sparked by a dispute over an unpaid bus fare by an immigrant, said Brigadier Togar Sianepur, a national police spokesman.

The fighting on Borneo is the latest clash between rival ethnic and religious groups in Indonesia as it faces economic and political crises.

Since January, more than 200 people have been killed in clashes between Christians and Muslims on Ambon in the country's east.

Many fear violence will escalate across the nation as it prepares to hold its most open parliamentary election in 45 years. June 7. Police and troops armed with rifles were sent to Teras and Pemangkat districts near Indonesia's border with Malaysia.

Chaherul Rafidi, a local police chief, said 43 people had been killed in the two districts since the violence began with indigenous Malay, Bugis, Dayak as well as ethnic Chinese people on one side and immigrants on the other.



EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Milosevic Asks for It

By talking at a reasonable peace plan and sending more combat forces into Kosovo, Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, is pushing the United States and its NATO allies to the brink of military conflict in the Balkans. Unless Mr. Milosevic retreats at the last minute, which he has done before, American missiles and NATO warplanes could be attacking Serbian targets within a matter of days.

President Bill Clinton and European leaders will be justified in doing so because Mr. Milosevic has arrogantly defied every effort to end the Kosovo conflict on terms that ought to be acceptable both to Serbia and to the ethnic Albanians who account for more than 90 percent of Kosovo's population.

The latest diplomatic casualty of Mr. Milosevic's aggression may be the peace talks convened by the United States, its European partners and Russia, which are aimed at agreement on a plan to return the province to self-government by the ethnic Albanians. Serbian military and police forces would have to leave Kosovo in a year. The negotiations in France were likely to end in failure on Thursday because Mr. Milosevic suddenly demanded unacceptable changes in the proposed agreement and had refused to approve the presence of a NATO peacekeeping force in Kosovo.

Another peace plan shattered by Mr. Milosevic was the deal he made last October with the American envoy Richard Holbrooke. Faced with the threat of NATO air strikes, the Serbian leader agreed to pull troops out of Kosovo, stop the shelling and killing of civilians and give full access to war crimes investigators, among other actions. He has broken all those promises. Serbia now has more than 30,000 troops in or around Kosovo.

Tanks and armored personnel carriers are streaming in. Thousands of ethnic Albanian residents have fled their villages to escape shelling. On Wednesday Serbia shut down two Albanian-language newspapers.

NATO should not undertake bombing casually, especially to change the way a government treats its own citizens. But in this case, NATO must be united in carrying out its threat. If Mr. Milosevic does not immediately stop attacking ethnic Albanians and agree to the peace plan, bombing is the appropriate response.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Poison in Serbia

While Slobodan Milosevic wages his war against civilians in Kosovo, he is also cracking down on freedom of expression at home in Serbia. This is no coincidence. Every time the United States threatens Mr. Milosevic and does not follow through, he has an excuse to turn on those he regards as internal enemies. Repression of all independent media in turn allows the Serbian dictator to fill his airwaves with hateful nationalist and anti-American propaganda. Whipping up nationalist support for his brutal campaign against the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo then helps him solidify his grip on power despite the economic misery he has brought on.

In the past week or so, Mr. Milosevic's henchmen in the judiciary have handed down six separate verdicts against the independent media. Newspapers have been hit with prohibitive fines. Brave journalists like Slavko Curuvija have been sentenced to jail. These verdicts represent a "drastic" escalation of the "ongoing wave of repression against the media in Serbia," as Belgrade's beleaguered Association of Independent Electronic Media said in a statement.

That ongoing campaign is well documented in the latest State Department report on Serbia's 1998 human rights record. Overall, the record "worsened significantly" and included "extra-judicial killings, disappearances, torture, brutal beatings, and arbitrary arrests and detentions."

The regime's assault on freedom of speech and the press in particular "was the most pronounced since Milosevic came to power over a decade ago," the U.S. government said. Newspapers and radio stations now can be, and are, harassed and shut down for virtually any criticism of the ruling clique or any statement deemed insufficiently patriotic.

Poison at home promotes instability throughout the neighborhood. Official media helped produce the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia in the first half of this decade. Now they are providing a cover for Mr. Milosevic's crimes in Kosovo. Europe and the United States once again are vacillating on whether to stand up to this evil. Until they do, it will continue to expand.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Rescuing the Salmon

The U.S. government's decision on Tuesday to order new protections for nine threatened salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest is just the beginning of what could be the biggest and most expensive rescue effort in the 26-year history of the Endangered Species Act. It is an effort worth making.

The decline of the once great salmon runs of the Pacific Northwest ranks high among the ecological blunders committed in the name of economic growth. The time has surely come to correct that mistake.

What makes the challenge uniquely interesting is its reach. Salmon spawn throughout the Pacific Northwest, so any effort to save them will have to be regional in scope. The effort will inevitably require higher taxes to clean hundreds of waterways and buy open space in crucial watersheds. It will impose tough restrictions on new construction, farming and logging, and may even require the costly decommissioning of federal and private dams that impede salmon runs but have also long supplied the Pacific Northwest with cheap power.

The early response from local politicians and citizens has been extraordinarily positive. One reason is that the salmon is not only economically important to the Pacific Northwest but is virtually a cultural icon. Beyond that, many local residents are consumed by fears that development will someday destroy the natural beauty that surrounds them. A save-the-salmon effort, with all the restrictions that implies, is thus seen as a timely antidote to shapeless sprawl. Seattle's mayor, Paul Schell, noted: "As we work to save the salmon, it may turn out that the salmon save us."

But this battle has a very long way to go. It is one thing to preach salvation. It is quite another to pay the price —

when farmers have to stop using pesticides, developers have to stop building in sensitive watersheds, loggers have to stop cutting trees along salmon-bearing streams. Today's euphoria could easily become tomorrow's backlash.

There are also many questions surrounding the federal commitment. Washington moved to protect the salmon only because environmental advocacy groups threatened to sue if it did not — an exact replay of the campaign to save the spotted owl. By listing the salmon as threatened, the Clinton administration has now saddled itself with an even more onerous responsibility: ensuring that Washington and Oregon develop an effective plan to save the fish. Vice President Al Gore has promised a special appropriation of \$100 million to underwrite a "cooperative restoration effort." But if the states falter, Washington would be obliged under the Endangered Species Act to step in with a variety of legal and regulatory weapons that, in effect, could halt development in its tracks.

An early test of this commitment will come in the next few months when the administration delivers its long-awaited proposal for restoring several species of salmon in the Snake River that were listed as endangered or threatened back in 1991 and 1992. Some scientists believe that these species will never recover unless the government dismantles or at least modifies eight dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers — a strategy unilaterally opposed by many big consumers of electricity and by Washington's powerful Republican senator, Slade Gorton.

The administration may find other ways to restore the freshwater flows essential to the salmon's survival. But what matters here is the end result — recovery.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NATO Should Go Ahead and Bomb Yugoslavia

By Christopher Bennett

BRUSSELS — It was predictable. Kosovo's ethnic Albanians accept the international plan for the future of their province. Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic rejects the deal because it means deployment of peacekeepers. The mediation process fails. NATO has to live up to its threats and bomb Yugoslavia, or lose face.

Parallels with Bosnia in the summer of 1995 are obvious. International mediators had devised a peace plan but failed to get the warring parties to accept it. After the slaughter at Srebrenica, the UN peacekeeping mission had lost credibility and the major troop-contributing countries had drawn up plans to pull out. The options were to recognize failure, withdraw and leave the warring parties to fight it out, or to intervene militarily, try to end the war and impose a settlement.

In the event, NATO launched a sustained bombing campaign against the Bosnian Serbs, and this led rapidly to the Dayton accord and peace.

If NATO fails to intervene in Kosovo, the evolution of the conflict is again depressingly predictable. As the weather improves, the fighting will escalate; more Kosovo residents, both Serbs and Albanians, will swell the ranks of the region's refugees; and the already entrenched positions of both sides will become even more extreme.

In the absence of international intervention, the conflict is unlikely to end until one side has won outright victory, which may be years down the line.

If NATO decides to intervene in Kosovo, it can draw on some lessons from its experience in Bosnia. But it is likely to face additional challenges.

The key to the successful bombing campaign of August and September 1995 was planning and resolve. All vulnerable personnel were withdrawn from Serbian-held territory. The last UN peacekeepers, a brigade of British troops stationed in the Gorazde safe haven, negotiated their way through Serbian lines just hours before the offensive began. A French-British-Dutch rapid reaction force had been deployed in Bosnia to fight, if necessary, any faction that threatened the UN forces.

No Westerner lost his life, and there were hardly any casualties on the Serbian side, but there was huge material damage as precision strikes destroyed strategic targets and shattered Bosnian Serb communications. It was an awesome display of firepower, and the message was not lost on any of the warring factions.

NATO's subsequent deployment and enforcement of the military side of

the Dayton accord proceeded remarkably smoothly. Not one peacekeeper has been killed by hostile fire in more than three years.

Intervention in Kosovo is likely to be harder in two respects — building international consensus for action, and the deployment itself.

The bombing campaign in Bosnia was launched in response to one of the greatest single atrocities of the Bosnian war, the second Sarajevo marketplace bombing, on Aug. 28, 1995, in which 38 people were killed and another 85 wounded. NATO had the support of the UN Security Council, and Russian acquiescence.

In deploying, NATO inherited a logistical infrastructure that had been built up by the United Nations during three and a half years; a cease-fire was already in place, with clear front lines; and all the factions were war-weary. It was winter, the time of year when it is hardest to wage war.

In Kosovo, NATO cannot look to the UN Security Council to sanction air strikes, and it must expect Russian opposition. There is no infrastructure in place; deployment will be into a hostile environment in which neither side has tired of war; and it will be spring, the optimum season for fighting.

In this less auspicious environment, NATO preparations have to be me-

ticulous, and the alliance would do well to target the local media. Television has been the cornerstone of Mr. Milosevic's rule ever since he came to power in 1987. If left under his control, the media will undermine any peacekeeping mission.

In Bosnia, television was left under nationalist control after the 1995 air strikes and thus continued to generate hysteria via its staple diet of ethnic hatred. This changed when NATO seized the transmitters in October 1997 and placed all media under international supervision. Since then, tensions have eased markedly.

It is easy to criticize the Dayton accord and the state of the Bosnian peace process. It will no doubt be easy to criticize any Kosovo settlement. That said, conditions for all parties in Bosnia, including the international community, are incomparably better today than they would have been in the absence of intervention. Three years down the line this will be the case in Kosovo, too, if NATO does indeed take the plunge and bomb.

The writer, author of "Yugoslavia's Bloody Collapse," is a former director of the International Crisis Group mission in the Balkans. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Anti-Missile Defense Doesn't Hit Russian Loose Nukes

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Reports from Moscow say there is a new chance for Russian approval of the long-blocked START-2 treaty to reduce Russian and American missile arsenals. It is a good sign at a time when Moscow-Washington relations are not very good.

The treaty urgently needs to be put into effect because the deteriorating Russian economy is seriously losing the capacity to safeguard nuclear weapons, and because negotiations on the next step, START-3, to bring each side down to 2,000-2,500 warheads (from the current 7,000) cannot begin until START-2 is ratified.

President Boris Yeltsin has promised President Bill Clinton to press for ratification more than once, but the Duma has so far refused to act. Each time it seemed to be about to move, something happened to strain relations. Now, Prime Minister

Yevgeni Primakov has made another appeal, before visiting Washington next week to seek to refinance Russia's debt. The hopeful sign is new draft legislation that has just been submitted to President Yeltsin.

But the bill provides that the treaty would be invalidated if the United States pulled out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty or deployed nuclear weapons in former Warsaw Pact countries now in NATO.

Both this measure and word that Mr. Yeltsin is thinking of turning up in Washington for the huge summit celebration of NATO's 50th anniversary in April show that it is not NATO's expansion that is blocking START-2. The Russians didn't like that, but have digested it.

They are concerned now at the prospect of more admissions to the alliance in the near future,

they are unhappy at the bombing of Iraq, and they definitely oppose the plan to bomb Serbia if it refuses to admit NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo.

But the thought of losing the ABM treaty is the utmost menace from their point of view. And they are right to take the threat seriously.

There is more and more talk in Washington, primarily from Congress and especially among Republicans, of legislation to provide for deployment of a national missile defense system — not on the scale of President Ronald Reagan's "star wars" scheme, which everyone now admits was science fiction, but nonetheless ambitious far beyond current technology.

The Senate voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday for construction of an anti-missile defense system as soon as it is

"technologically possible." The ideas proposed would violate the ABM treaty. Proponents argue recklessly: "So what? It's a treaty with a country that doesn't even exist any more."

Allied diplomats in Washington are advising their governments that the anti-missile push is not idle talk. The administration does not encourage it, but political support is gaining momentum for the notion that America must start now to protect itself against future technological advances by rogue states. The arguments against the plan are compelling, but they are not getting resonance.

The most important argument is that tests keep failing. However, a recent success with a much shorter-range defense that is an improvement on the Patriot anti-missile system renews inflated claims. "This certainly moves us well down the road of saying we can make these systems work," said Brigadier General Daniel Montgomery, in charge of army missile defense programs.

Something similar to the hype generated for the star wars plan is developing. A Commission to Assess the Ballistic Threat, headed by former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, reported to Congress after a six-month study that, in the words of commission member Richard Garwin, "If a nation wants to, it can develop long-range ballistic missiles more quickly and with greater secrecy" than the intelligence community had expected.

That judgment of threat has been picked up as an endorsement of anti-missile defense, a program that would cost still

barely calculated hundreds of billions. Not so, says Mr. Garwin, a physicist with long experience in nuclear weapons development, in a recent issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The group simply was not asked if they favor deploying such a system, and Mr. Garwin definitely does not. He cites a long list of problems and countermeasures which indicate that it just would not work.

He wryly cites the old saying that "Occasionally it is necessary to take the enemy into account." Tests assume perfect conditions and that would be easy for an enemy to make any hit much harder. Mr. Garwin is by no means alone in the scientific community opposing the current plan.

But once again, visions of high-tech salvation inflamed with political heat risk not only wasteful folly but damage to international relations.

Even the Chinese are worried about Washington's intentions. When she was in Beijing, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright brushed the worries aside saying that the Chinese should stop missile proliferation instead of complaining about a decision that has not been made to deploy a defense that has not been developed.

Where Moscow is concerned, the danger is that missiles will proliferate out of control if the defense mirage is pursued. The suggestion even of abandoning ABM to build anti-missile defenses must be firmly rejected. It risks losing a real chance of getting rid of too many missiles that may become loose nukes.

Flora Lewis.

The West Can't Afford to Write Off a Struggling Russia

THE IMF needs to renew lending to Russia so that Russia can repay the IMF. It is an absurd situation, but international finance is like that.

Russia's failure to repay its loans would mean a collapse of relations with the IMF and the World Bank. It would contribute enormously to cutting Russia off from international investment. Except as an exporter of raw materials, Russia would be largely isolated from the world economy. The West would have lost one of its few remaining levers to influence Russian behavior.

Greater budgetary austerity and serious economic reform are for the moment virtually impossible. Wages to state employees are up to a year in arrears; the armed forces, the health service and the educational system are crumbling. The patience of the people is legendary, but further cuts could destroy what central influence remains over important provinces.

Building up the state's capacity to again play an effective economic role will be the work of years. During that time, even successful economic reform would yield little in the critically important area of direct foreign investment.

For the foreseeable future the most important task of the desperately sick central state will be simply to survive. There can be no doubt that it is in the West's interest that it do so. The greatest dangers for the West today come not from Russian strength but from Russian weakness.

It is not clear that in practice Russia is more hostile to real U.S. interests than, say, India, with which America maintains pragmatic, useful relations without either illusions or hysteria.

It is worthwhile to prevent Russia's isolation. If this requires more money from the IMF, that is really not a large price to pay.

— Anatoli Lieven, in The New York Times.

Support a Worthwhile Package Deal With North Korea

By Ralph A. Cossa

SEOUL — President Kim Dae Jung's proposed package deal with North Korea is an attempt to save two important initiatives. One is his "constructive engagement policy" with the North, also known as the sunshine policy. The other is the 1994 "agreed framework" accord and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, KEDO, which emerged from it.

The deal announced in New York on Tuesday in which North Korea agreed to allow the United States full access to a suspected underground nuclear site at Kumchangri in exchange for some modest American agricultural aid, appears to be a significant conciliatory move by Pyongyang. But many other security concerns of South Korea and Japan, as well as the United States, still have to be put to rest by North Korea.

They include its ballistic missile program, the massing of military forces close to South Korea, and Pyongyang's refusal to deal directly with Seoul.

As a result, both initiatives — President Kim's engagement policy and the agreed framework — are still in danger of coming apart in the prevailing climate of partisan domestic politics in South Korea, the United States and Japan. Yet both are worth saving.

When the previous South Korean government of President Kim Young Sam was in office, the United States was frustrated with Seoul's failure to develop a coherent, comprehensive, long-range policy in dealing with the North. Kim Dae Jung has risen to this challenge. His engagement policy is forward-thinking and clearheaded.

Its first pillar is a firm determination, backed by the U.S.-South Korean security alliance and 37,000 American

troops stationed in the South, not to tolerate aggression by the North. But it extends an olive branch by renouncing a policy aimed at absorbing the North, provoking its collapse, in favor of one that sets the stage for eventual reunification by stressing cooperation and confidence building to bring about a gradual opening of the North.

Mr. Kim's approach separates economics from politics, and stresses people-to-people and other exchange programs, based on North Korean reciprocity.

As with any long-term policy, his is the target of partisan sniping, given the tendency among opposition politicians and the press in a democratic society to demand policies that provide instant results. Add to this continued North Korean intransigence, and it is no wonder that President Kim's minority government has had difficulty generating legislative or broader general public support for his engagement policy.

The United States pays only lip service to President Kim's sunshine policy. When he visited Washington, he received bipartisan praise for his struggle to promote democracy in South Korea. But when he urged the Clinton administration and Congress to consider lifting U.S. sanctions against North Korea to buttress his effort to engage and open the North, his request fell on deaf ears.

What is missing, of course, is a comparable long-term, comprehensive U.S. policy in dealing with North Korea, one that would put KEDO, the U.S.-North Korean missile talks and other such initiatives in broader perspective. Former Secretary of Defense William Perry's just completed review and recom-

mendations on America's North Korea policy may help in creating such a strategy. But the prospects for bipartisan congressional endorsement or administration implementation of any politically risky recommendations appear slim.

Japan, too, lacks the political courage or foresight to construct a forward-leaning policy toward North Korea. Of course, Pyongyang has done little to help. Its launch of a long-range missile over Japan in August has made Japanese overtures toward the North politically difficult despite Seoul's blessings.

Mr. Kim recognizes that the U.S.-led KEDO process, which is the most successful vehicle for cooperation between Washington and Pyongyang, is in serious trouble. The U.S. Congress is reluctant to fund American obligations as long as the status of the suspicious underground facility at Kumchangri remains unclear.

Mr. Kim realizes that the agreed framework, flawed as it may be, is better than the alternative — a resumption in earnest of North Korea's nuclear quest, and a possible return to the 1994 standoff between Pyongyang and Washington that threatened to drag South Korea and Japan into a military confrontation with the North over U.S. nonproliferation policy.

Mr. Kim's proposed package deal would link continued North Korean compliance with the agreed framework (including inspections of Kumchangri) with things that the North wants — food and economic aid, an end to the U.S. economic embargo, and normalized relations between Pyongyang and both Washington and Tokyo.

It is an attempt to get the agreed framework process back

on track and rescue the engagement policy without appearing to yield to North Korean blackmail over inspections.

What is missing from the package is an implementing mechanism.

KEDO has been one of the bright spots in the cooperation of the United States, Japan and South Korea with North Korea. There should be a parallel or companion KEDO — the Korean Peninsula Agricultural Development Organization. It should be chaired not by the United States but by South Korea, to administer the future food aid and agricultural assistance.

KADO would provide a vehicle for channeling American, Japanese and other international

food aid to North Korea. Such assistance would not only help to alleviate immediate hunger, it would focus on agricultural development for the North's long-term food needs.

This could help depoliticize U.S. and Japanese food aid. It would also provide a meaningful demonstration of real support for President Kim's policy of constructive engagement.

The writer is executive director of Pacific Forum CSIS in Honolulu, a nonprofit, foreign policy research institute affiliated with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Fire Hazards

NEW YORK — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] The rapid destruction of the Windsor Hotel was due to its flimsy structure. The chief trouble, according to Thomas J. Brady, Commissioner of Buildings, lay with the old laws that "made cheap building possible." There are a dozen hotels in New York that would burn just as quickly. To prevent a repetition of the Windsor Hotel horror would it not be a good thing to close up these hotels until they are made fireproof or order their demolition?

1924: Arabian Gesture

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] Much attention is centered upon Hussein, the Arabian King of the Hedjaz. It is to the United States that Hussein sent his first Embassy. Perhaps the act is prompted by knowledge of the vast influence that

is wielded by American Jews in relation to the problem of the New Zion in Palestine. Hussein's capital is Mecca. If an American envoy is admitted, without opposition by fanatic pilgrims, a tradition of hostile exclusion which has endured for centuries will be at last broken.

1949: Alliance Pledge

WASHINGTON — The North Atlantic treaty pledges the United States and Allied nations to resist automatically "armed attack" against any one of them, possibly by the use of armed forces, according to the text of the pact. The Soviet Union has denounced the pact as an aggressive move, despite repeated assertions by Western leaders that its aim is strictly defensive. It provides for a defense committee to strengthen and coordinate the defenses of the whole of North America, western Europe and the North Atlantic.

Herald Tribune

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OPINION/LETTERS

Americans Can't Keep Peace That Isn't There

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — This week, just days after the House of Representatives had narrowly defeated a resolution opposing the deployment of U.S. troops as part of a NATO peacekeeping force in Kosovo, Douglas Farah of The Washington Post reported some disquieting news about a previous peacekeeping mission to Haiti.

The chief of the U.S. Southern Command, General Charles Wilhelm, had told a closed session of a House subcommittee last month that he wanted the troops removed from Haiti because the continuing instability of that poverty-stricken island nation put them at too grave a risk, according to a transcript of the hearing.

You may be forgiven if you are surprised to learn that the U.S. Army is still in Haiti. It has been more than four years since the September day in 1994 when President Bill Clinton sent a force of 20,000 troops onto the island. There was immense relief when last-minute negotiations cleared the way for their arrival: when they left their bases, they had expected to have to fight their way ashore. But the generals running the country backed down, and soon were replaced — thanks to U.S. force — by the elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Neither Mr. Aristide nor his successor, René Préval, has been able to bring peace or democracy to Haiti. Factional fighting has immobilized the government and stymied efforts

at economic recovery. And now that the factionalism has provoked assassinations and bombings, the 500 U.S. troops still in Haiti spend much of their energy just trying to protect themselves against those they came to help.

It would be difficult for the Clinton administration to accept the general's call for a pullout, for it would concede the failure of a peacekeeping mission regularly touted as one of the signal achievements of recent years.

It would be especially embarrassing at the very moment when the administration is trying to squelch opposition in Congress — fed by such foreign policy luminaries as Henry Kissinger — to sending 4,000 U.S. troops to Kosovo in a new peacekeeping mission.

Two days before peace talks resumed between the Serbian forces occupying Kosovo and the rebel forces who claim to speak for the 90 percent Albanian population of the province, bombs planted by unknown perpetrators killed at least seven people — a reminder of how far from peace Kosovo remains.

During congressional debate, the question repeatedly raised was what assurance the administration could give that once the troops were sent into Kosovo, they would ever be able to get out. The response was that without NATO troops on the ground, the killing would go on, and without U.S. participation, America's European



The West

allies would not go it alone. This was the latest manifestation of what might be called the Wilsonian conundrum. It was President Woodrow Wilson, after World War I, who most boldly asserted the doctrine that the United States would not only use its might to protect its national interests against any external threats but would aid the struggle for democracy, freedom and self-determination of oppressed people wherever it was being fought.

Wilson's ideas have influenced almost all his successors, from Franklin Roosevelt through Mr. Clinton.

Under the slogans of human

rights, liberation of captive nations or peacekeeping, they have tried — with only intermittent success — to lift U.S. foreign policy beyond the crass calculations of power politics and into the exalted realm of morality and justice.

What we have learned, I think, is that all those good values cannot be imposed at the point of a gun — even if the gun is held by an American soldier who wants nothing in return but a safe trip home.

Peace cannot be built until the warring parties have exhausted themselves and are ready to take the responsibility on themselves to turn a new

page. An example is Northern Ireland, where decades of sectarian violence blessedly have given way to a shaky peace.

The United States, led personally by Mr. Clinton, played an honorable and vital role in bringing about that change. But it did so at the conference table, using diplomats, not troops.

The lesson is not that Americans should never be peacekeepers; rather, that there has to be a peace to keep. Sending in the military to impose a peace on people who have not settled ancient quarrels has to be the last resort, not the standard way of doing business.

The Washington Post

Paying to Have Life Tidied Up In Dirt-Under-the-Rug Culture

By Louise Rafkin

EMERYVILLE, California — It seems as if just about everyone in California can afford a housecleaner these days. Housecleaners used to be the coveted prizes of the middle or upper classes. "Mine even does the ironing!" were once fighting words.

But I now know cabdrivers and waitresses who cough up \$40 a week for a good once-over. Even recent college graduates are hiring help, and adver-

tisements for roommates often include the price of a shared cleaning lady. "You do your own cleaning?" I was recently asked by a twenty-something acquaintance. "I wouldn't even know how to mop a floor."

It's no wonder that more affluent households are taking the next step: hiring full-time butlers. There is even a school that trains butlers and house managers — the Professional Domestic Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

Students in the program learn basic skills like cooking and cleaning, although a glance at the school's Web page shows that prospective butlers seem willing to do just about anything.

When the cost of such all-inclusive care runs as low as \$25,000 a year, who wouldn't mind having someone else to do the ironing and to make sure there was enough toilet paper in the house? And who could possibly complain about being met at the door with a fresh martini after a long day at the office?

Still, I fear where this trend might be leading us. America was founded on the principle of a classless society, but that is an ideal we have never achieved. And as the economic gap between the haves and the have-nots grows wider, I wonder if we are returning to the days when everyone knew his or her place.

In the 1920s and '30s, when rich was rich and poor was poor, big houses employed more than 30 servants. At William Randolph Hearst's estate on Long Island, New York, one man's entire job was to dust table legs. (Another member of the staff kept the table tops dust free.)

These houses were staffed largely by Europeans, especially Irish and English servants who were well versed in what it meant to serve. This also allowed employers to sidestep the messy issues of race. An Englishwoman I know who worked for the Hearsts, as well as for the Fricks and a branch of the Kennedy clan, told me she easily found work because employers thought her accent gave homes an air of European refinement, even though she came from dirt-poor country stock.

Now in her 90s, she is once again dirt poor, living off the generosity of her last employer, whom she stopped working for more than 20 years ago.

This story should not be repeated in today's world, because employers are required to pay Social Security for their servants. But the difference between the lives of those served and those doing the serving can still be disconcerting.

One majordomo whom I met recently said his job was to open every door for his "madame" and be at the ready if she dropped a tissue. "She has never run her own bath," he said. "I don't think she would know how."

I questioned whether this rich woman

We make messes, and then we ignore them. Or we bury the mess in the Nevada desert.

was able to understand people less fortunate than herself.

"She didn't understand me," he snipped. "When I asked for one day off a week. Needless to say, he is no longer working for her."

A friend of mine who is a writer and also works as a "personal assistant" to an artist complains that her employer does not understand what can or can't be done, or how long it takes to accomplish something. Her boss has never tried to buy swim goggles at 10 P.M. or send flowers abroad (a no-no).

The people who hire servants can avoid taking responsibility for their own lives. We live in a sweep-under-the-rug culture: We make messes, and then we ignore them. Or we hope no one finds out about them. Or we bury the mess in the Nevada desert — and then hope the bucket doesn't leak.

We expect that somehow, someone else will take care of everything — and that someone is too often regarded as somebody whose life is not worth as much as ours.

The writer, author of "Other People's Dirt: A Housecleaner's Curious Adventures," contributed this comment to The New York Times.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia: Why Not to Intervene in Kosovo

By Alan Tonelson and Ted Galen Carpenter

LOS ANGELES — Before President Bill Clinton sends a proposed 4,000 U.S. soldiers on a peacekeeping mission to Kosovo, he should consider this sobering reality: Peacekeeping operations all over the world are falling apart, despite the investment of billions of U.S. dollars and several dozen lives. Rather than continue pushing America's luck in regions irrelevant to the nation's direct security and well-being, Mr. Clinton should end this grandiose post-Cold War experiment in fixing failed states.

The list of failed peace missions is long and growing. Somalia remains a hotbed of chaos and clan warfare following ambitious United Nations and U.S. attempts at nation-building. Five years after a U.S. invasion aimed at "restoring" democracy in Haiti, another leader, President René Préval, just dissolved Parliament, while the country's economy remains a basket case and political violence is on the rise.

Cambodia, once touted as the signature peacekeeping success, has descended into renewed dictatorship.

The United Nations has just beaten a hasty retreat from Angola, where a long-smoldering civil conflict has reignited. A multilateral UN mediation and peacekeeping effort collapsed in December,

when Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola guerrillas attacked government forces.

The original UN mission in Bosnia floundered and its NATO-led successor has long exceeded its deadline. Yet, after three years of occupation by the world's most powerful military alliance, Bosnia shows few signs of becoming a viable country, as tacitly acknowledged by the Clinton administration's warnings that setting deadlines for U.S. troop withdrawals could plunge it back into chaos.

These dismal results should not be surprising: U.S. participation in peace operations was always a dubious policy. The failed states involved fit no traditional definition of vital or even significant U.S. interests. None is militarily strong enough to threaten the United States or its major allies. None is a significant market for U.S. goods or a major site of U.S. investment. None supplies any scarce raw materials.

Nor, despite numerous warnings, have their troubles repeatedly spilled over to other countries. Until the Asian financial crisis, most of Cambodia's neighbors boomed economically and cohered socially, despite that country's

troubles. Interventionists portray the Kosovo crisis as the inevitable result of Bosnia's recent war, but the Albanian Kosovars' grievances against their Serb rulers long predate that conflict. Indeed, Bosnia's continuing woes have not prevented Slovenia from prospering.

Just as important are the costs of U.S. involvement in peacekeeping. The price of the Bosnia mission has hit \$12 billion, with no end in sight. Haiti has cost more than \$2 billion. Washington has spent \$1.5 billion on tiny, remote Rwanda.

Moreover, as finally acknowledged by the administration, peacekeeping obligations have stretched U.S. combat forces dangerously thin and increased the tempo of military operations far beyond prudent norms.

Interventionists have long emphasized America's alleged moral interests in helping failed states through peace operations. But how moral is it to risk U.S. lives in unnecessary and futile ventures? The record shows that outside forces have not the vaguest idea how to fix failed states at any politically acceptable or strategically sensible price.

Interventionists inside and outside the administration insist that U.S. super-

power status requires actively supporting UN and NATO peace operations. Yet, the reality is just the opposite. Precisely because the United States is so strong, wealthy and substantially self-sufficient, it can afford to ignore tempests in local teapots, however tragic.

Mr. Tonelson is a research fellow at the U.S. Business and Industrial Council Educational Foundation. Mr. Carpenter is vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute. They contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This Is America, Too

America bashing is a worldwide sport. Yet the criticism expressed by a European (*Letters*, March 16) may have some foundation. However, it could be noted that America is the only major power that almost consistently lived by and sought to maintain the Jeffersonian Judeo-Christian principles, which are the basis of Western civilization. This from Abolition through two hard-to-win world wars and one Cold War, which if lost would have seen the end of Western civilization. Some things ought to be said from

time to time, even if they are self-evident truths.

ALBERT REISS,
Le Chesnay, France.

How silly that a European claims to be oppressed by "American rightness." After all, America is the living fulfillment of European reformers. Free trade, democracy, and meritocracy blossomed in the New World before they were allowed to take root in their European home.

He is a European without a sense of history. He condemns military action to halt terrorists and rogue states. These words insult the mil-

lions who died in Europe's wars and those in the Balkans, Asia, and Central Europe who would suffer more today if not for American involvement.

American rightness is ubiquitous because it rewards transparency and encourages individuals to be better tomorrow than they are today. It vociferously opposes collusion and unaccountability. That is why Canadians buy health insurance in America, why French performing-arts organizations select Americans as artistic directors and why European foreign policy is flaccid without the help of Washington.

European jingoists can keep their high unemployment, blood-based legislatures, corrupt European Commission, sanctimonious media and social envy. Optimistic, hard-working people everywhere have better things to do.

Indeed, here in Warsaw, amid the rubble of Europe's failed socialist experiment, Poles do not line up for work visas at the Italian Embassy. Nobody talks of one day fulfilling "the French dream." They appear to know better than some of their West European cousins.

JOE SENFT
Warsaw.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Middle name of 7-Across
- 7 "The Second Coming" poet
- 12 Like plain paper
- 14 Monopoly game marker
- 16 An essential amino acid
- 17 Sophocles tragedy
- 19 Place to find keys
- 20 Scraps
- 21 One of three pieces
- 22 Back muscle, familiarly

Solution to Puzzle of March 18

CHEDDAR ATTITUDE
GENEROSE FURNACE
SWAGMAN EQUADOR
OMIGRAKE ALE
PREFECTURE TREK
LAD ANDREI
GELS BRA BAWBIS
WALTZINGMATICIDA
STEROL AUG DELLY
AGLETS
SWAY ALESSANDRO
TAX ABIS AND
ALTIQUOT JAMBUCK
GENUINE ADELPHI
EDGINGS WINECAP

DOWN

- 23 Sport
- 24 Son of Indra
- 27 Kind of pen
- 28 Place to find keys
- 32 Hot
- 33 Bullet
- 34 Change too much
- 35 Riffraff
- 36 Place to find keys
- 44 Skater Harding
- 45 "All That Jazz" director
- 47 "Had It" (1959 hit)
- 48 Priestly garb
- 49 Stammer
- 1 Round
- 2 Discover
- 3 Board member
- 4 Into (gets by chance)
- 5 Artist Nadelman
- 6 Monthly budget item
- 7 "Go, team, go!" and others
- 8 Lits upright
- 9 Chevron competitor
- 10 Like some heads
- 11 Notched
- 12 Center of a ball?
- 14 Sends by air
- 15 Seng

ACROSS

- 25 Place to find keys
- 26 Destroyed
- 28 Take again
- 29 Keystone Kops producer Mack
- 30 Distinguishing mark
- 31 Overhead lighting?
- 32 Bikini tryouts

DOWN

- 19 Pioneer company, since 1972, in computer reservations
- 24 A.A.A. suggestion
- 25 Latin conjugation word
- 26 Canada Day
- 28 Polynesian carving
- 30 Prize since 1949
- 31 Milk dispensers
- 32 "Where we?"
- 36 Flow stoppage
- 37 Cash, in Costa Rica
- 38 Like rare or medium steak
- 39 V-chips block it
- 41 Auto mechanics set them
- 42 Clear
- 43 Takes a load off
- 45 More pets
- 46 Sateri needs
- 47 Sgt. Bilko
- 48 Charlie, for one
- 54 Something many people look forward to: Abba
- 55 River through Yakutsk
- 56 Kiln

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Essence of a Colonial Past Infuses Neglected Malacca

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

MALACCA, Malaysia — In a country where "old" is often defined as pre-1970, this city with its hibiscus-red colonial buildings and ornately carved facades is an oasis of history.

As progress and development have marched across Malaysia, one small corner of the country seems to have been spared. Still intact are Malacca's centuries-old shop-houses, its church built in 1753 and the ruins of a fort erected by the Portuguese about 450 years ago to secure the once strategic port.

As one ambles through the streets of the city, it is difficult to fathom Malacca's crucial role in the region's — and indeed the world's — commercial history. An adage from the early years of European colonialism in Asia perhaps says it best: "He who is lord of Malacca has his hand on the throat of Venice."

Malacca was the gateway to the spice islands, an entrepot for cloves, cinnamon, pepper and nutmeg. The narrow straits off the city, still some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, held the key to the lucrative spice trade for Europeans, who began their trips to the region in the early 1500s.

It was only in the last century, when the British moved their regional headquarters south to Singapore, that Malacca lost its strategic significance.

Today, the city's charm is its neglect. The local government has done little to polish the appearance of the historic district, a series of streets packed with sometimes rickety, narrow shop-houses. Local officials refuse to pay for renovations of the 18th-century church — the Dutch government paid the last time, in the 1980s — and talk of building a pedestrian promenade beside the oldest houses has remained just that.

The result: Many parts of the historic center still function independently of tourist dollars. Dilapidated buildings replete with elaborate tiles and carvings house barber shops, loan sharks, funeral parlors and furniture shops. Local patrons of tea stalls mingle and converse oblivious of the tourists who walk past the shops' marble-top tables and distinctive wooden chairs.

The hidden splendor of these buildings has not gone entirely unnoticed. Singaporeans, among others, are buying up the old houses and converting them into boutique hotels and cafés to complement the art galleries and trinket shops.

But history in Malacca resides not only in the rows of old shop-houses and nearby fort and church. There are gems throughout the city, although many are lost in Malacca's sometimes ugly and congested streets.

One is tucked away behind the fort: a small cemetery that speaks of the history of early colonists and their travails.

Amid tombstones of former governors and military officers is the grave of Edward Hugh Massy, the 1-year-old son of a British lieutenant stationed in Malacca in the early 1800s. His grieving parents left a little piece of poetry on his gravestone: "This lovely bud so young and fair called hence by early doom just came to shew how sweet a flower in paradise would bloom."

SIGNPOSTS OF THE PAST

It is through such tombstones that Malacca betrays the identities of its past and present inhabitants. Few cities in the world can claim such an eclectic heritage. Malacca was founded by a Sumatran prince in the 14th century and saw successive waves of Portuguese, Dutch and British colonists met by traders from India, China and Java, among other places. Some groups, like the Chittys from

India and the descendants of Portuguese settlers, formed separate communities that remain today. Each race and culture has left its mark on the city — whether it is the spicy Portuguese food or the Armenian inscriptions on the floor of Christ Church. Indeed, part of the challenge for visitors to this old port is to try to disentangle the city's European and Oriental influences.

VISITORS today range from Singaporeans who drive here on weekends, to the droves of Europeans who, as their ancestors did, often come in groups.

Malacca is halfway between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore — two cities that have clearly succumbed to concrete and steel — making it an easy destination for a day trip.

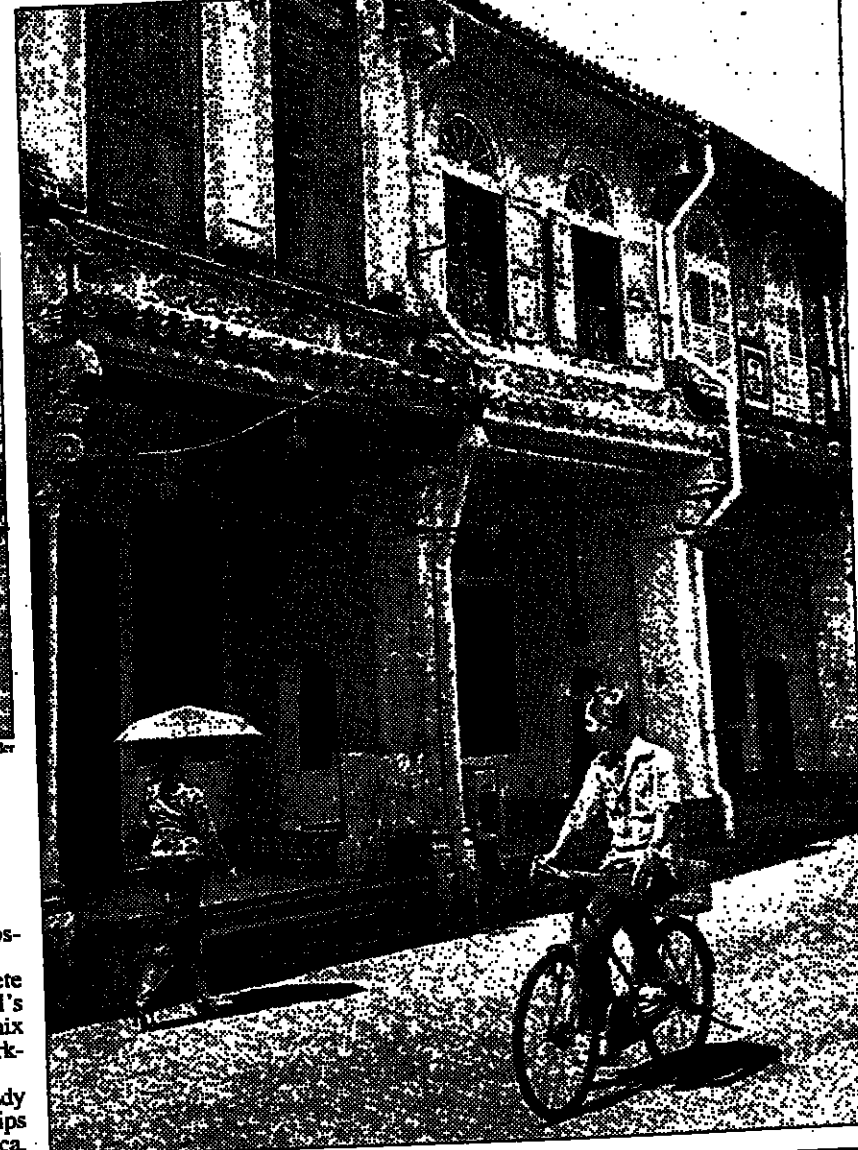
Visitors who stay the night have choices among four and five-star hotels or boutique hotels in the historic part of town, a neighborhood recently made more lively with the addition of bars that stay open late.

At the heart of the historic area, next to the Dutch-built Christ Church, is the creaking State Historical Museum, housed in the former Dutch governor's house, and filled with dioramas, furniture and period costumes. Next door is the Youth Museum, a dark and puzzling series of rooms filled with sports trophies and dedicated to the not-so-youthful politicians who built it.

Also to be avoided is a nightly outdoor historical performance, derided by



Tourists can visit the refurbished Christ Church, built by the Dutch in 1753, and take a ride down Jonkers Street for a look at Malaccan architecture.



Malaccans as the sound, light and mosquito show.

But no visit to the city is complete without a journey to the top of St. Paul's hill, where the ruins of a fortress mix with the giant, 17th-century tomb markers of fallen Dutchmen.

In the distance, plying the muddy straits, are the outlines of container ships that all but ignore once-mighty Malacca.

The Lakeside Charms of Geneva

As Springtime Nears, the Shores and City Streets Come Alive

By Elizabeth Olson
New York Times Service

GENEVA — Easter approaches and Geneva is shaking off its winter doldrums. It stops being a way station for skiers and comes into its own as a lovely flower-filled city on Western Europe's largest lake.

Geneva's streets are alive with bicyclists, skaters, office workers and tourists, who treat themselves to a coffee or a meal at outdoor cafés at the first hint of tolerable weather. Suddenly crowds cluster around the beautifully manicured flower beds and marvel at the 476-foot (145-meter) column of water that is Geneva's best-known landmark. Visible from all around the city, the Jet d'Eau spews 132 gallons into the sky each second from a pier on the lake's southern shore.

With spring's arrival, tourists and residents begin enjoying sparkling Lake Geneva, known to the Swiss as Lac Léman. Boats, including four Belle Époque steamboats, stop at nearby picturesque villages such as Yvoire in France, or go far up the lake to Montreux to the fairy-tale Chateau de Chillon or Lord Byron's poem. Cruises operate on Sundays in May, with several trips a day after May 31. Prices vary, with a full-day outing starting at \$33. (All prices are calculated at 1.5 Swiss francs to the dollar).

There are walking and cycling paths that lead past some magnificent architecture, such as the 14th-century Maison Tavel with its tower, the oldest house in Geneva; the Gothic houses on the Old Town's main street, the Grand Rue; and the Cathedral of St. Pierre, which dates to the 12th century.

The city as nature preserve can be explored on boats that ply the Rhone River between April and November. Starting at the Pont de l'Île, Quai des Moulins, the *mouettes* (long, low covered boats) glide quietly for almost three hours, passing ducks, swans and

gray herons, which live in abundance along the forested river, where hunting is banned.

Boats leave daily at 2:15 P.M., with additional 10 A.M. trips on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. The fare is \$14.75 for adults, \$10 for children.

Musée Rath, 4 Place Neuve, will show monumental engravings from the last quarter-century by the German artist Georg Baselitz, from May 1 to Aug. 15. He combined engraving and painting to produce outside works. The museum is closed Mondays, open noon to 9 P.M. on Wednesday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. all other days and admission is \$3.35. Call (41-22) 418-3340 for information.

Starting Friday, the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, 2 Rue Charles-Galland, will display nearly 100 elaborately ornamented shields from Africa, Asia and Oceania that are part of its Barbier-Mueller Collection. The exhibition runs through Sept. 5. Through the fall, the museum will also feature an exhibit of European paintings from the 17th to the 20th centuries, including works by Corot, Cézanne, Monet and Renoir. Open 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Tuesday to Sunday; admission is \$3.35. (41-22) 418 2600.

For those interested in charting the course of Swiss history over more than a century, the Maison Tavel, 6 Rue du Puits-St-Pierre, will offer an exhibit through April 25 of 150 photographs from the Swiss Foundation for Photography, the Forum of the History of Switzerland and private collections, with a work representing each year between 1848 and the present. Open noon to 5 P.M. Tuesday to Saturday; 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sunday; Admission: \$2. (41-22) 310 2900.

Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" will be presented by the Teatro Comunale de Florence on March 16, 19, 22, 25, 28 and 30 and April 2 at the Grand Theatre, Place Neuve, followed by Wagner's "Rheingold" in a production by Cercle du Grand Theatre on April 30 and May 3, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16. The cellist Yo-Yo Ma

and the pianist Kathryn Stott will perform at Victoria Hall, 14 Avenue General-Dufour, at 8:30 P.M. April 28 in a program of Stravinsky, Brahms and Bach.

Geneva offers two international exhibitions each spring: the International Fair for Books, Press and Multimedia, April 14 to 18, featuring books and magazines from around Europe, and the International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and New Products, with 1,000 new inventions from 44 countries; both are at the Palexpo center and admission is \$7.

WHAT TO SEE The most charming part of Geneva is its Old Town. Start at the Place du Bourg-de-Four, with its 18th-century fountain decorated with flowers, its little bistros with tables spilling out to the street and its tiny shops. As long ago as Roman times, the square was a gathering place where markets were held. City dwellers came to collect drinking water, brought by aqueduct from nearby mountains. The area is also where John Calvin spoke during the Protestant Reformation.

The Old Arsenal, with five cannons tucked under its arcades opposite the Town Hall, is a favorite climbing and picture-taking spot. The old artillery once protected the city ramparts. Seized by the Austrians in 1813, the cannons were returned in 1923. The arsenal features some mosaics dating from 1949 depicting important chapters in Geneva's history, among them the arrival of Julius Caesar in 58 B.C. and the welcoming of Huguenot refugees during the Reformation.

Geneva's hilly streets may be daunting for some. An easy way to cover them is by mini-train, which departs the Place Neuve and winds through the Old Town. The mini-trains also transport people to sites around the lake.

Go to the Quai du Mont-Blanc for trains leaving for the Right Bank circuit, which takes about 40 minutes and includes the Botanical Gardens, several international institutions and parks as



A view of Geneva and Western Europe's largest lake, with the Jet d'Eau to the right.

well as lake views. Service starts April 1. A stroll down to the Rhone leads to the remains of the 13th-century Tour de l'Île constructed to protect the city against the Savoyards. Only the tower was spared after several fires damaged it. Restored in 1897, it is topped by a clock. At its base is a bronze statue of a hero of Geneva's independence, Philibert Berthelier, who was tortured and beheaded there in 1519. About three minutes away is the splendid Forces Motrices, built in 1886 in the industrial style as a hydroelectric plant, but renovated recently for use as a theater.

ROOMS WITH A VIEW The 51-room Hotel Strasbourg-Univers, at 10 Rue Pradier, is right near the train station. It

has a fresh feel, with newly renovated rooms in a light green and mustard color scheme. This Best Western has Internet, modem and fax connections in each room and double-glazed windows for quiet; doubles begin at \$127.

The Hotel Eden, 135 Rue de Lausanne, is a favorite for visitors to the United Nations nearby. For those who cannot be separated from e-mail and the Web, each of the 54 rooms — done up in cheerful blue plaid — is connected to the Internet. It overlooks a park by the lake, and the front rooms have screens on the windows. Doubles start at \$167, with breakfast. Its restaurant is open weekdays.

Families who want a glimpse of rural Swiss life within close range of Geneva can try a *gîte*, or farmhouse. The nearest one to Geneva, 15 minutes from downtown, is Chez Jacques Imobersteg, 74 Route de Coudres, in Celigny, a small house that sleeps up to six, overlooks the farm and costs \$53 to \$67 a day.

A charming choice (and perhaps the only budget hotel overlooking the Rhone) is Hotel des Tourelles, 2 Boulevard James-Fazy. The 23 rooms in this family-operated establishment feature modern decor and new prefabricated baths. Four turreted rooms face the water. Doubles start at \$80.

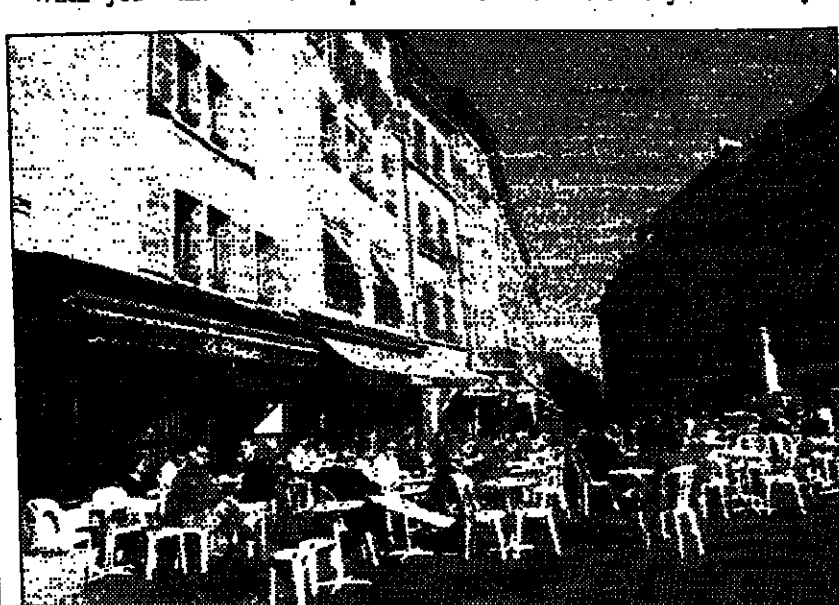
When you want a bite, sample a

Geneva institution at Mere Royaume, 9 Rue de Corps-Saints. There are two floor-to-ceiling stained-glass windows celebrating a woman who, in 1602, dumped a cauldron of soup on a Savoyard invader. Dinner for two, with a good Swiss wine, such as Yvorne, Clos de Georges 1996, runs \$160. Specialties are veal (\$27) and bass in pastry (\$29), and there is a splendid dessert cart. It is closed Sunday, and offers only dinner on Saturday.

ARHONE RIVER boat outing can culminate with a wonderful meal at the Café de Peney, part of the nearby deluxe Chateau Vieux restaurant and hotel, which is just steps from the boat stop. The café's colorful floor tiles make the decor. A lunch for two, with lobster ravioli, fish in risotto, lamb chops and choice of dessert was \$60, plus wine.

A less costly Geneva institution is Brasserie Lipp, 8 Rue de la Confédération, a lively place for good food, especially fish. It is now serving a Geneva specialty: perch filets from the lake. Dinner for two starts at \$53.

For lunch, Les Fous de la Place, 21 Rue de la Cornaterie, offered a hearty plat du jour of chicken, rice and green beans for \$10. Red mullet for two with wine was \$53. Closed Sunday and Monday.



Geneva flows to outdoor cafés at the first hint of tolerable weather.

DINING

A Disappointing Search for the Perfect Fish

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Say "fish restaurant" and I'll be the first to get in line at the door. So the second my calendar was clear, I reserved a table at the city's newest restaurant devoted to the fruits of the sea, Aristippe.

Nestled not far from the Palais Royal, this 40-seat restaurant is an all-white affair, greeting you with a welcoming entry that reminds you of a clean, white front porch in the country.

Unfortunately, the second I stepped inside I was hit not by a fresh sea breeze but a stale, stagnant, fishy odor. And the evening pretty much went downhill from there.

Gilles Le Galles, last seen cooking at La Barrière de Clichy just outside Paris, has received a warm and positive response from the French press, an enthusiasm I simply cannot share.

Service at Aristippe — named for the Greek philosopher Aristippus, who maintained that people should devote their lives to the pursuit of pleasure —

was slow as slow can be. Waiters seemed to have no training (except in how to ignore diners), and the food was universally boring, uninventive, stuck in the mud.

The most disappointing dish of the evening was named for one of France's greatest and most inventive fish chefs, Gilbert Le Coze, who died in 1994. With his sister, Maguy, he lit up the Paris food world in the 1980s at the popular fish restaurant Le Bernardin, which set new standards for freshness and simplicity. Le Galles's version of Le Coze's *langoustines rôties* was dull and faded, a meager serving of langoustines seared in their shells and bathed in a ho-hum sauce.

(I dearly wanted to march into the kitchen and say to the chef: "I knew Gilbert Le Coze. And you are no Gilbert Le Coze.")

Equally drab was the main-course *blanquette de lotte*, not much more than a dreary portion of monkfish in a creamed sauce, topped with a slice of grilled bacon and a mound of basmati rice. Likewise, the turbot (nicely paired with salsify, a most under-utilized

winter vegetable) could have been any white fish, it was so lacking in personality.

If I had made the dull *tarte fine aux pommes* — thin apple tart — I would have thrown it in the garbage and gone back to the pastry board. The pastry had all the flavor of a piece of cardboard and the fruit lacked that delicious winter acidity that France's best apples supply.

The only redeeming quality came from Domaine Mardon's flinty white Quincy — a Sauvignon blanc with a smoky, spicy nose — well priced here at 95 francs (about \$16) a bottle.

This is not a good moment for fish. Sushi lovers will not be happy after a trip to the new and trendy Lo Sushi, one of the chic and modern restaurants in the neighborhood of the Champs-Élysées. On how I wish it were better, for the lively, beautiful spot — designed by Andreu Putman with its conveyor belt of sushi at the bar, multimedia screens clicking away, pastel-colored sauces to denote the price of

each dish, and cheery waitresses — could be just what the doctor ordered.

Alas, the sashimi was bland, while the rounds of rice-filled sushi just made it to the edible mark. Best bets here were anything filled with a touch of rich mayonnaise or sweet, ripe avocado. The cold sake was insipid. But the spot is so popular that the doorman (who, I'm sorry, more resembles a bouncer) turns hordes away. For this, you have to reserve days in advance.

Aristippe, 8 Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Paris 1; tel: 01-42-60-08-80; fax: 01-42-60-11-13. Credit cards: Visa, Amex. Closed Saturday lunch, Sunday and two weeks in August. 170-franc lunch menu: 220-franc tasting menu. A la carte, 175 to 245 francs, including service but not wine.

Lo Sushi, 8 Rue de Berri, Paris 8; tel: 01-45-62-01-00; fax: 01-45-62-01-10. Credit cards: Visa, Amex, Mastercard. 15 to 40 francs a plate. About 150 to 250 francs a person, including beverages.

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MOVIE GUIDE

RUSHMORE

Directed by Wes Anderson. U.S.

This portrait of the mogul as a young man arrives courtesy of Wes Anderson, whose bright, spiky "Rushmore" has the brainstorm of envisioning a 15-year-old wanna-be tycoon as a schoolboy. At Rushmore Academy, in scenes filmed at the director's own Texas alma mater, a young Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman) calls the shots. Oh, sure, the place has faculty, but none of the grown-ups have anything like Max's natural authority. Maybe one man on the scene, the steel tycoon and Rushmore benefactor played by Bill Murray, is right on the same wavelength with Max. While the film embroils Max and the mogul in pursuit of the same beautiful teacher (Olivia Williams), it is a particular treat for its skewed, hilarious memories of a cutthroat boyhood. Spectated Max starts off on top of the Rushmore world and experiences a wonderfully welcome comeuppance. As directed by Anderson and written by him with Owen Wilson (his partner on "Bottle Rocket," which "Rushmore" far surpasses), it is too smart to be maudlin. "Rushmore" also includes a sweet turn by Seymour Cassel as Max's father and a sputtering indignant one from Brian Cox as the headmaster. (Janet Maslin, NYT)



Bill Murray and Jason Schwartzman in "Rushmore."

ANALYZE THIS

Directed by Harold Ramis. U.S.

Robert De Niro's wise guy gets in touch with his inner goombah courtesy of Billy Crystal's psychoanalyst in "Analyze This." an uproarious, four-letter-word-flinging comedy from Harold "Ghostbusters" Ramis. Ramis, who directed and co-wrote this gangland farce, does not provide much of a plot, but he does extract every last yuck from this lively clash of id and superego, this spoofy buddies' odyssey from underworld to Prozac nation. De Niro adroitly skewers his tough-peasant image in the role of Paul Vitti, a Brooklyn-based kingpin who can no longer handle the demands of

his career. Along with the hits and the heartburn, Vitti must now deal with competition from the influx of Chinese and Russian mafias. Is it any wonder he comes down with a Godfather complex, whose symptoms include heart palpitations, erectile dysfunction, crying jags and panic attacks? To that end, he starts seeing Ben Sobol (Crystal), a family therapist with a roster of patients suffering from hilariously humdrum ills. Vitti and Sobol make the perfect comedic odd couple. Alas, Vitti's breakthrough is postponed when he tells his chief rival, Primo (Chazz Palminteri), that he is seeking "closure wid you." Primo doesn't know from closure, but the word has a finality about it that he doesn't like. Matters are further complicated by the doctor's marriage to a Miami broadcaster (Lisa Kudrow), Primo's vendetta against Vitti and the arrival of the FBI, which

from which the film takes its composite title. The joyous *pizzicata* is an amorous and festive dance, set to the beat of tambores and bearing a resemblance to Greek folk dancing. The *tarantula* is a mad dance of grief and longing, and within the story of "Pizzicata" there is room for both. Winesap, who previously made documentaries, calls this feature "a declaration of love for my country." "Pizzicata" warmly evokes the landscape of Salento and the modest lives of its peasant farmers. There is a strong sense of community and fellowship here, not to mention such charming local color as chickens roaming outside Carmine's farmhouse, melodious singing and frequent references to local olives and wine. Many of the film's minor players appear to be local villagers who contribute greatly to the inviting naturalness of "Pizzicata." (Janet Maslin, NYT)

BOOKS

ALL TOO HUMAN

A Political Education

By George Stephanopoulos. Illustrated. 456 pages. \$27.95. Little, Brown and Co.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

THE awkward title of the new memoir by President Bill Clinton's former adviser, George Stephanopoulos, seems meant as a commentary on the author's famously flawed former boss and on the author himself. The book depicts Clinton as a man of contradictions, a politician whose very "shamelessness" is a key to his political success, a man whose "capacity for denial is tied to the optimism that is his greatest political strength."

At the same time, it creates a sort of bildungsroman portrait of the author as a young man whose idealism is tempered by "raw ambition," a one-time altar boy turned political operative, whose messianic fervor on behalf of the candidate he helped get elected gradually gives way to disillusion and doubt.

The publication of "All Too Human" has brought much debate on television talk shows about loyalty and discretion, but the book is a far cry from the devastating indictments of previous administrations offered by other insiders.

It lacks the cold-blooded voyeurism of H.R. Haldeman's "Diaries," which depicted the Nixon White House as a paranoid bunker. It eschews the sneering vituperation that has animated such books as Donald Regan's "For the Record: From Wall Street to Washington," which depicted a White House in thrall to Nancy Reagan's astrologer, and David Stockman's "The Triumph of Politics: Why the Reagan Revolution Failed."

In fact, Stephanopoulos's memoir in large measure simply amplifies the portrait of the president and his administration already offered by insiders like the onetime presidential adviser Dick Morris and the former labor secretary Robert Reich, as well as a host of journalists. It is a portrait of a White House riven by infighting and often indecisive president given to volcanic rages and sentimental spasms, a compulsive politician with a "natural inclination toward conciliation and a Panglossian faith in his ability to achieve what he willed."

Stephanopoulos notes in his prologue that he had intended — before Monica Lewinsky — to write the story of how "an ambitious and idealistic president of uncertain personal character grew in of-

fice" and how a group of "good, talented but fallible people" tried to use what Vaclav Havel calls "the art of the possible" — that is, political maneuvering, intrigue and deal-making — to effect "the art of the impossible, namely, the art of improving ourselves and the world."

The revelations of last year changed Stephanopoulos's appraisal of his former boss. "I was angry at Clinton," he writes, "for selfishly risking his presidency on a foolish dalliance and arrogantly trying to fix it himself, for lying about it and sending others out to lie for him, for paralyzing his policy agenda and making his accusers look like prophets instead of fools."

With the exception, however, of a biting picture of Morris (who is depicted as an egomaniacal buffoon, "the dark Buddha whose belly Clinton rubbed in desperate times"), "All Too Human" is fueled less by any score-settling agenda than by an insider's preoccupation with process and a natural storyteller's fondness for vivid characters and anecdotes.

Stephanopoulos describes Ross Perot as "the weird little man who was a ventriloquist's dummy for voter anger," Senator Robert Byrd as "an elegant, elderly popinjay," the former New York governor, Mario Cuomo, as a Hamlet who could not make up his mind whether he would accept a Supreme Court appointment, and Vice President Al Gore as "the only person inside the White House who could really poke fun at the president."

Of Hillary Rodham Clinton, Stephanopoulos says that she, like her health care plan, "was ambitious, idealistic and highly logical" but also "inflexible, overly complex and highly susceptible to misinterpretation." "Her often brittle exterior," he adds, "masks a more vulnerable core," while the president "looks soft" but is cushioned by his "accommodating nature."

At the same time, he suggests, Mrs. Clinton exercised a formidable hold over her husband. He depicts Clinton as agreeing in December 1993 that the White House should cooperate with reporters and turn over Whitewater documents until he thought of how his wife, Hillary, would react. "Saying her name flipped a switch in his head," Stephanopoulos writes. "Suddenly, his eyes lit up and two years' worth of venom spewed out of his mouth. You could usually tell when Clinton was making Hillary's argument: even if he was yelling, his voice had a flat quality, as if he were a high school debater speeding

through a series of memorized facts."

On the matter of Whitewater, he adds: "Clinton wasn't commander in chief, just a husband beholden to his wife. Hillary was always the first to defend him on bimbo eruptions; now he had to do the same for her."

As for Stephanopoulos's relationship with Clinton, he writes that he had become a "true true believer" during the 1992 campaign and, in retrospect, "an enabler" who wanted Clinton to see him "as his defender, not his interrogator."

"A dynamic had already started," he writes of the fallout from the Gennifer Flowers episode, "that would repeat itself many times in the years ahead — one explained well by Reinhold Niebuhr. 'Frantic orthodoxy,' he wrote, 'is never rooted in faith but in doubt. It is when we are not sure that we are doubly sure.' I now had doubts about Clinton, had seen his flaws up close, which caused me to focus even more intently on his strengths and believe even more fervently in his ideas."

How can Stephanopoulos reconcile his willingness at the time to spin the Gennifer Flowers story with his current anger over the Monica Lewinsky affair? "I didn't think I was a hypocrite," he writes, "because my defense of Clinton against past bimbo eruptions had been predicated on my belief that he wouldn't create new ones, but maybe I was complicit because when I worked for Clinton I had been willing to suspend my disbelief about some of his more suspect denials."

Such tortured explanations — part rationalization, part mea culpa, part masterful spin, part earnest self-doubt — are in many ways characteristic of this book, which one minute has Stephanopoulos reveling in tactical stratagems and the next moment worrying that he has become as shameless as his nemesis Dick Morris; one minute trying to convince himself that his boss's policies matter more than anything else and the next minute fuming at Clinton's recklessness and talent for evasion.

They also underline why Stephanopoulos, who says he began seeing a therapist in 1994 and taking Zoloft for anxiety and depression, decided to leave the administration after the 1996 campaign to begin a new life teaching at Columbia University and working as a political analyst for ABC. "That's the way it was with the Clintons," he writes. "You were either for them or against them."

New York Times Service

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

EVERY player has, on occasion, the following feeling: "Whatever I do now will be wrong." Sometimes this is true and any play will help the opposition. Sometimes it is not quite true, but the escape route is hard to find.

Put yourself in West's position on the diagrammed deal. He opened in third position with one no-trump, the weak with one showing 12 to 14 variety. This seemed about to produce a two-heart contract, following a transfer response, but South came to life with a surprising balancing bid of two spades.

This was decidedly risky, but it is not unusual to bid a

four-card suit in such situations. Partner will know that a five-card suit would probably have been bid on the previous round, and can continue if he has a misfit. As it was, the two-spade bid struck gold and North raised to game.

West examined his lead choices against four spades with distaste. A spade lead and a diamond lead were both quite likely to cost a trick, although as it happens either would have been entirely safe. A club lead was more attractive, but would have given South some help. He would have been able to discard a heart from dummy on the second round of clubs, and would have needed a winning heart guess to make his game.

So West reluctantly led the heart queen, feeling that a lead in his partner's suit was the least evil. Unfortunately, the heart queen was the only card in his hand that could end all hope for the defense. Even an eccentric heart three would have left matters in the balance.

East took the heart ace and shifted to the diamond queen, knowing that his partner's lead was a doubleton, not a singleton. South happily won with dummy's ace, crossed to the club ace and took a winning spade finesse. Then he entered his hand with a heart lead, led another trump and made his game. He surrendered two diamond tricks.

North-South scored 10.5 match points out of a possible

12, and the two pairs ended with identical totals to share the title.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 8 2
♥ 10 9 4
♦ A 7 6 5
♣ 7

WEST
♠ K 7
♥ Q 3
♦ K J 2
♣ A 10 8 6 3

SOUTH
♠ 6 5 4 3
♥ K J 8
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ A Q

Neither side was vulnerable. The holding:

East South West North
Last Pts Pas 1st Pts
2nd Pts 2nd Pts
3rd Pts 3rd Pts

West led the heart queen

KIDS

Virtual-Reality Thrills in Japan

Urban Theme Parks Provide Interactive Fun With 3-D Technology

By Miki Tanikawa

TOKYO — You and seven other people board the state-of-the-art submarine, and depart for a ride to an underwater colony, only to find the city severely damaged by some undersea creature. Suddenly a giant octopus overtakes the ship, violently shaking it with its muscular arms, and it is up to you and your colleagues to shoot down the monster with the electric gun at your command.

Demand for better computer games and funky theme parks that can make efficient use of limited space in Japanese cities have spawned a new breed of amusement facilities known as urban-type theme parks, where scenes from science fiction movies are played out in interactive, virtual-reality attractions. These indoor amusement parks, like Sega's Tokyo Joypolis, are full of 3-D-type adventures that appeal to people of all ages.

The fascination with the rides, people say, is that they are much more sophisticated and interactive than arcade games and much less expensive, less vulnerable to weather and easier to travel to than regular theme parks, which are usually far removed from large cities.

The 3-D reality is perhaps best portrayed at the Crypt, where two people don bulky 3-D glasses and headsets. The courageous couple sneak into an underground hallway of an ancient castle in search of a hidden treasure, only to encounter the creepy inhabitants instead.

In this virtual-reality attraction, images are projected from five different screens — left, right, front, behind and beneath. As the advancing monster breaks past you, you can see him marching down the hall as you turn around, the effect of the all-direction image projection.

Horror is a well-sought out theme here, and at the Murder Lodge, another spooky attraction, special sound effects are fully exploited to give the guests maximum chills. Visitors wearing headsets are welcomed into a snowy mountain cabin with a table prepared for dinner. Except for some vibrations on the walls and the shaking of the seats, the horror story of the guests being murdered unfolds by sound. The host dropping dishes to the floor and his attempts to restore light by striking matches, and the killer banging on the door are all well done from the acoustic angle.

The attraction has become famously



A white-water rafting ride simulates a trip down a violent torrent.

terrifying, and the staff members tell visitors to take off the headsets if it scares them too much. An English-language version can be arranged.

Half-Pipe Canyon, a joy ride that mimics a skateboard experience, is one of the few nonvirtual attractions at Joypolis, but it has enough high-tech features to lure thrill seekers. Two people step onto a board and strap themselves to a pole. The board moves up and down a U-shaped track like a skateboard making his way up and down the hill. The board spins around and swings up and down the track.

The players receive a score based on the number of turns they make and the speed they achieve, which is controlled by an accelerator at their feet.

HORROR JET COASTER

In a new attraction that combines movement with computer images, the Horror Ride is described by Sega officials as a "horror-type jet coaster." It takes players on a tour around a cemetery in a truck on tracks. The enclosed car has an internal screen that serves as a window.

Along the way, riders encounter a variety of obstacles, such as zombies that jump in and attempt to destroy the tracks or push the car down a steep hill and into an endless fall. The images tell you that you are traveling a great dis-

tance, at times running at a blistering speed, when in reality you will have moved only 38 meters during the three-minute trip.

Joypolis is filled with small gimmicks and surprises designed to freak out visitors, such as a bench that groans, yells and makes toilet-flushing sounds, or a garbage can that complains whenever it is used.

TOKYO JOYPOLIS, in the waterfront Odaiba district, is one of seven such facilities around the country, and, with a three-story complex, is the among the biggest. Joypolis in Shinjuku, another major Tokyo entertainment district, and one in Umeda, a district in Osaka, have introduced virtual-reality white-water rafting that simulates a trip down a violent torrent, an experience that has earned many fans.

At Tokyo Joypolis, an all-you-can-ride pass costs 3,800 yen (about \$33). Tel: 813-5500-1801. On the Web: <http://www.sega.co.jp>

Shinjuku Joypolis: 813-5361-3040

Umeda Joypolis, in Osaka: 816-6366-3647

Some of the rides at Tokyo Joypolis, including Aqua Nova, the 3-D sea tour with the octopus, have a version in English for groups of at least three people.

Miki Tanikawa is a journalist based in Tokyo.

ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

LONDON National Gallery, tel: (171) 747-2885, open daily. To July 4: "Roger van der Weyden." A small exhibition celebrating the sixth centenary of the birth of the Dutch painter (1399-1464). Of the 20 or so surviving paintings that are attributed to van der Weyden, five are displayed here, together with fragments of altar panels. www.nationalgallery.org.uk

FRANCE

PARIS Fondation Dina Vierny — Musée Maillol, tel: 01-42-22-59-58, closed Tuesdays and holidays. To June 13: "Vieira da Silva." A selection of paintings and works on paper, often semi-abstract architectural compositions — by the Portuguese-born artist (1908-1992).

Institut du Monde Arabe, tel: 01-40-51-38-38, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To April 30: "L'Arabie." "Arabesque." On loan from the National Museum in Beirut, art works that document the history of the country, together with recent finds from archaeological digs in the capital, Baalbek, Tyr and Sidon. www.imarabie.org

Musee d'Art Moderne, tel: 01-47-23-38-88, closed Sundays and Mondays. To May 8: "Peinture Mexicaine Moderne et Contemporaine." From the collection of Jacques and Natasha Gelman, works by Kahlo, Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros and Tamayo, as well as works by lesser-known 20th-century Mexican artists.

GERMANY

BERLIN Nationalgalerie, tel: (30) 266-2662, closed Mondays. To May 30: "Max-Ernst-Retrospektive." Paintings, sculptures and works on paper by the German artist (1891-1978). A leader of the Dada movement, Ernst became a pioneer of Surrealism before fleeing to the United States to escape the Nazis. He experimented with various techniques and media: collage, frottage and decalcomania. The exhibition will travel to Munich.

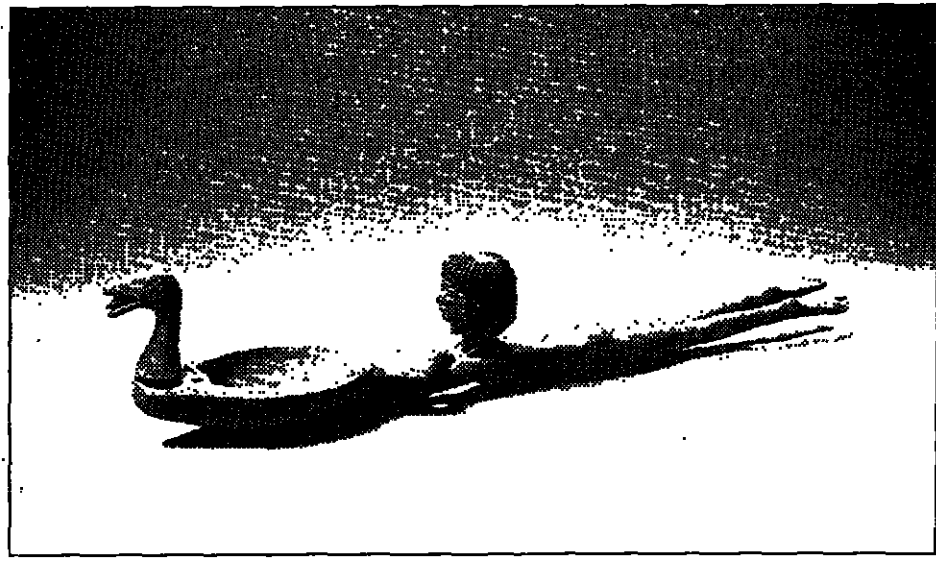
COLOGNE Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, tel: (21) 221-22-82, closed Mondays. To May 8: "Arnt de Gelder, 1645-1727." The Dutch painter (1645-1727) was Rembrandt's apprentice for two years. His historical paintings derive their inspiration from the master's broad painting method.

ITALY

FLORENCE Palazzo Strozzi, tel: (55) 21-52-71, open daily. To July 4: "Arte Sublime nell'Antico Egitto." A loan of statuary and artifacts by the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. They document the evolution of art from the Old Kingdom, 2,500 years before Christ, to the New Kingdom and the arrival of Greek civilization and culture.

JAPAN

NAGOYA Nagoya City Art Museum, tel: (52) 212-00-01, closed Mondays and March 23. To April 7: "Oran-



Egyptian antiquities are exhibited at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence.

SUMMER FESTIVALS

The curtain goes up on the 1999 festival season. The Arts Guide highlights some of the productions.

GLYNDEBOURNE, ENGLAND Glyndebourne Festival Opera, box office tel: (01273) 81-38-13, fax: 81-46-86, May 18 to Aug. 28. Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM Moderna Museet, tel: (8) 8195-5200, closed Mondays. To May 24: "Alexander Rodchenko." Traces the career of Rodchenko (1891-1956) from his leadership of the Moscow avant-garde to the marginalization of his art under Stalin's dictatorship. Includes paintings, sculptures, drawings, collages, design and photography. www.modernamuseet.se

UNITED STATES

NEW YORK Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. To June 1: "The Museum as Muse: Artists Reflect." More than 180 paintings, sculptures, photographs, drawings, videos and installations by 60 artists who reflect on the concept of museum, explore its relationship to the art it contains and incorporate some of its aspects in their own work. The exhibition presents a number of "personal museums" created, among others, by Broodthaers, Oldenburg and Bolinas. www.moma.org

CLOSING SOON

AMERICAS March 21: "Duane Hanson: A Survey of His Work from the 1960s to the 1990s." Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

ASIA March 22: "Prmrs of Edward Munch." National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto. March 22: "A Longing for Limpidity." Idemitsu Museum of Arts, Osaka, Japan. March 22: "The Affirmative in Art." Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo.

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INTERNATIONAL

Hindu Attacks Against Christians Are on the Rise in India

By Celia W. Dugger
New York Times Service

BHUBANESWAR, India — Less than two months after a Hindu mob murdered a Christian missionary from Australia and his two young sons in the eastern state of Orissa, Hindu and Christian villagers have clashed, and 157 of the 250 Christian homes were burned down, state officials said Thursday.

Thirteen people were injured in the incidents Wednesday, three of them by country-made guns.

Police have arrested 29 people. State officials said they presume Hindus set the fires but do not have solid evidence yet of who is guilty. Christian villagers interviewed by television reporters blamed Hindus, who they said shouted "Victory to Lord Ram," the Hindu god,

as they set the fires. The extent of the destruction only emerged Thursday as leaders of the state government and the state police visited the village of Ransol in southern Orissa. Officials said tensions developed between Christian and Hindu villagers after someone painted a trident, symbol of Lord Shiva, over a Christian cross on a boulder about a mile outside of the village.

The violence is part of a growing number of attacks on Christians in India over the past year. Church officials and opposition political parties say the problem has worsened since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party became the head of a national coalition government a year ago. Janata leaders say they oppose the violence.

It is not clear who is responsible for the violence in Orissa, which is ruled by

the Congress (I) Party. J.B. Patnaik, the chief minister of the state, resigned after the gruesome murders of the missionary, Graham Staines, and his sons, Timothy, 10, and Philip, 6. Mr. Patnaik said he took responsibility for the crime that had happened on his watch.

Even as the fires burned in the village of Ransol on Wednesday, D.P. Wadhwa, the Indian Supreme Court Justice who was named to head a special inquiry into the Staines murders, harshly criticized the central government for failing to provide resources to investigate the crime. The commission of inquiry, which was constituted six weeks ago, is scheduled to issue its finding in two weeks but has yet to field a team of independent investigators or to be given functional offices.

"His Lordship has serious concerns

over the lapses of the government and its apathetic attitude towards the urgent requirements of the commission," D.G.R. Patnaik, secretary to the commission, said Thursday. "He has given them an ultimatum of one week to deliver."

A.N. Sharma, a spokesman for the Home Ministry in New Delhi, declined to comment on the judge's demand for staff and offices. The cabinet of the national government appointed Mr. Wadhwa to head the commission of inquiry just days after the Staines' murder Jan. 23.

The state police attributed the killings to a mob that they said was led by a man from the Bajrang Dal, a Hindu nationalist youth group that belongs to the same family of Hindu nationalist organizations such as the Janata Party.

Leaders of the Bajrang Dal denied involvement, and said the violence was a

backlash against the Christians' deceitful efforts to convert impoverished, illiterate Indians. L.K. Advani, home minister of the national government and a leader of the Janata Party, said within days of the killings that the Bajrang Dal had not committed the crime — an exonerated that leaders of the opposition said was grossly premature.

More than 50 people were arrested for the murders. All but a half-dozen have been released for lack of evidence, Mr. Patnaik said. The police have refused to discuss their findings.

Indian government officials said there had been 258 registered attacks on Christians in the past 20 years, 60 of them in Orissa. The number of attacks on Christians in India rose to 86 last year from seven the year before, more than half of them in the western state of Gujarat.

Beijing Shuts Journal Amid Crackdown

By Michael Laris
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — In a further hardening of the Chinese government's stance on dissent, authorities have ordered Way magazine, one of the country's most lively forums for debate on political reform, to halt publication immediately, sources at the journal said Thursday.

The government has also decided to put Fang Jue, a former midlevel government official who made a bold call for freedom of the press and direct presidential elections, on trial soon on charges of illegal business practices. He has been in prison since July.

The moves come days before U.S. and European officials are set to decide whether to introduce a resolution condemning China at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Last year, the Clinton administration decided not to sponsor such a measure as a carrot to encourage Chinese leaders to improve their rights record.

But in the year since that decision was made, Chinese authorities have begun to crack down on dissidents who challenged the legitimacy of the Communist Party. Three key founders of the China Democracy Party were given prison terms of more than 11 years, and a number of other dissidents have been sent to prison or sentenced to "reform through labor."

Authorities have also tightened controls over the country's increasingly aggressive official media. Several publications around the country have been suspended or shut down for good. Despite the added restrictions, China's writers and publishers have continued to push the limits of what is acceptable. But many fear that the recent developments could mark the beginning of a new round of closures.

According to sources close to Way, which is called *Fangfa* in Chinese, the magazine was criticized at a meeting of censorship officials in January and told to stop publication. But editors argued that they had not been provided with an official written notification.

In an example of the ambiguity which often characterizes relations with the government, the magazine's staff was not blocked from continuing its normal operations for the next two months, and published its March issue as planned.

The magazine is considered a liberal voice in the academic debate on China's political future, and is widely read by scholars and government officials.

Last week, though, editors received a written order from the State Press and Publications Administration to cease publication, an indication that authorities had finally decided to enforce their decision. "They said that in recent years Way had been writing too much about social science and too little about natural science, and that there was a discrepancy with our original stated purpose," an editor said.

All publications in China must be registered with the government. Way emphasized its interest in the uncontroversial area of science when it registered. But its pages have contained impassioned calls for "freedom of thought," property rights, and the separation of Communist Party and government functions.

Editors say they plan to refashion the magazine with less emphasis on politics and will seek permission to publish again. The decision to put Fang Jue on trial, which was revealed by Human Rights in China, has also sent a chill through political reform circles here. Mr. Fang, a businessman and former deputy director of the planning commission in the coastal city of Fuzhou, distributed an essay in 1997 calling for radical political reform.



A French soldier in Macedonia guarding a mortar unit Thursday in a position near the Kosovo border.

KOSOVO: Wednesday Shapes Up as Deadline for Serbs

Continued from Page 1

are in violation of pledges Mr. Milosevic made last fall to withdraw most of these forces and stop attacks that have driven more than 200,000 civilians from their homes over the last year.

Those positions, other Serb military targets, and all of Serbia's sophisticated air defense system could come under attack by 400 American and European planes, including U.S. B-52 bombers with cruise missiles, as early as next week, the allies insist, unless Mr. Milosevic decides to accept the peace plan and 28,000 allied-led peacekeepers to enforce it.

General Wesley Clark, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's top military commander, said Thursday after visiting NATO troops already gathered in Macedonia. "There should be no doubt in the minds of the Serb military and police leaders that should NATO act, their military and police forces would be devastated."

"If the decision is made, NATO military forces are prepared to act," General Clark said.

Russia, which is a co-sponsor of the talks here along with the United States, France, Britain, Germany, and Italy, opposes the use of military force against the Serbs but appealed to them Thursday to settle peacefully.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov huddled by telephone from Moscow with Mr. Cook and Mr. Vedrine, who returned to Paris on Thursday night, and with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Washington.

[Mrs. Albright, accusing the Serbs of "going backwards" in the Kosovo negotiations, told Mr. Milosevic on Thursday that NATO was ready to act against his forces, Reuters reported from Washington. "I would like to remind President Milosevic that NATO stands ready to take whatever measures are necessary," she said before addressing congressional leaders on the situation in Kosovo.]

Mr. Ivanov appealed to the Serb leadership to let Serb delegates here sign what Mr. Ivanov called "the political document put forward by the working group." European, American and Russian mediators at the talks worked out the 81-page agreement that the Albanians finally signed Thursday evening, but the Russian mediator, Boris Mayorsky, was the only mediator who did not also sign as a witness.

Earlier Thursday, the mediators met with the Serb delegation again, but Philip Reeker, the chief spokesman of the talks, said that there had been no change in the Serb position. The Serbs left the talks before the Albanian signing ceremony. Serb and ethnic Albanian delegates are not known to have actually talked with each other since the negotiations reconvened Monday after a two-week break to give the Albanians time to consult with field commanders about an agreement settling for autonomy instead of the independence they had been fighting for.

Christopher Hill, the American negotiator for the six sponsoring "contact group" countries, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, said Wednesday that the Serbs had demanded unacceptable changes to the autonomy agreement, refusing even to discuss military and police measures to make it work.

According to the Russian news agency Itar-Tass, Mr. Ivanov said, "We urged our Belgrade colleagues to show the most constructive approach, taking into account the fact that the Albanian side has already consented to sign the document. Without it, it is impossible to discuss any forms of implementation."

The top Serbian official at the talks here is Milan Milutinovic, the president of Serbia, which under the peace agreement would remain sovereign over Kosovo for the next three years, although the Albanians would have home rule, their own legal, educational, and administrative organizations, and an Albanian police force.

SEX TAPES: A Prosecutor Reappears as Russia Watches a New Scandal Unfold Marked by Political Intrigue

Continued from Page 1

that there are no politics in Russia, only political intrigues. The second is that everyone has compromising material on everyone else and, usually, it is true."

Appearing before the upper house of Parliament on Wednesday, Mr. Skuratov said that before his resignation six weeks ago he had been the target of a blackmail attempt that he traced to political and financial figures who, he said, feared inquiries by the prosecutor's office, had driven a wedge between him and Mr. Yeltsin.

He did not say which figures he had in mind.

"I could almost feel that the activity of law-enforcement agencies stuck in their throat like a bone, that we had stepped on their sore spots, especially when it came to illegal privatization and reorganization of enterprises into joint stock companies, illegal banking activities, economic management, abuses by top-level officials," he told the members of the upper house.

He vowed to press ahead with a series of potentially sensational investigations — into financial misdeeds at the Central Bank of Russia, into illegal trading in government securities during the financial crisis last summer, and into the blackmail attempt itself.

"The information they obtained was obtained in violation of the law, an egregious violation of the law," Mr. Skuratov said. He was referring to the video of his nude romp. "The way it has been used can also be punishable."

As the remarkable events unfolded, it became clear that this scandal, unlike so many others in Russia, could actually have lasting consequences, above all for President Yeltsin, who apparently was caught off guard by Mr. Skuratov's abrupt decision to try to hold onto his post.

The most serious political challenge for the president came from the normally loyal Federation Council, made up of regional governors and administrators. It voted overwhelmingly to back Mr. Skuratov, by 142 to 6, with 3 abstentions.

After summoning Prime Minister Primakov for an unscheduled meeting, Mr. Yeltsin joined Mr. Primakov in a statement that pointedly praised the Federation Council for its campaign against corruption. But it challenged Mr. Skuratov's moral authority to lead the campaign.

"While fully supporting the efforts of the upper house of Parliament to combat crime and corruption, the president and prime minister agreed that unscrupulousness and politicking are incompatible with the high post of prosecutor general," Mr. Yeltsin's press service said.

Before broadcasting the tape, the news anchor advised viewers that the material was not suitable for viewers under the age of 18.

If the video was meant to freeze Mr. Skuratov out of public life, it failed, at least for now. "When everyone is watched, their pictures taken, watched through a key hole, taped etc., this is disgusting to use such dirty, illegal methods," said Amangeldi Tuleyev,

governor of Kemerovo region.

But there were also signs that the Federation Council was already prepared to do battle with the Yeltsin government on other issues. At its Wednesday session, the upper house voted to lower Russia's value-added tax, rejecting pleas by the government to delay the reduction. It also voted to create a body to review television programs for their "moral" content — a measure seen by the Russian media as a first step toward censorship.

The news of the upper house's rebellion was greeted with applause by the Communist Party-dominated opposition in the lower house, the State Duma. Other deputies detected the telltale signs of a worsening confrontation.

"These developments are a sign of an approaching serious political crisis because this decision is aimed, in essence, against the president," said Sergei Ivanenko, a leader of the liberal Yabloko faction, commenting on the Federation Council's vote for Mr. Skuratov.

Shun Kabul, U.S. and Britain Tell Citizens Employed in Staff Jobs for United Nations

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The U.S. and British governments have refused to allow their citizens who work with the United Nations to return to Afghanistan, a UN official said Thursday.

The order, which cites security concerns, is "temporary," said Stephanie Bunker of the United Nations aid operations in Pakistan.

The ban appeared to contradict United Nations policy, which does not allow governments to dictate to the United Nations where their citizens will work, according to a UN Afghan negotiator, Andrew Tesoriere.

There was no immediate comment from either the U.S. Embassy or the British High Commission in Islamabad. If the order remains in effect, Mr. Tesoriere, a British national who mediated a weekend agreement between warring Afghan groups, will not be attending the next round of peace talks, expected to be held next month in Afghanistan.

The UN-brokered talks involved the Taliban, which rules about 90 percent of the country, and a northern-based alliance of opposition groups, controlling the remainder.

The UN workers returned to Afghanistan earlier this week, ending a seven-month boycott that began after an Italian officer with the UN mission was shot to death in August in Kabul. A French worker was injured as well.

The attack was apparently in retaliation for an Aug. 20 missile strike by the United States against suspected terrorist sites run by Osama bin Laden, the anti-Western Saudi dissident.

The United States accuses Mr. bin Laden and his followers of carrying out deadly bombings Aug. 7 at two embassies in East Africa.



FORGET ME NOT — Florence Forget of Attleboro, Massachusetts, holding a postcard that she received on Monday and that was mailed to her from Florida 47 years ago.

GOETHE: Poet's Corpse Secretly Exhumed

Continued from Page 1

the devil, has lain since his death in 1832 in a crypt that also contains the corpse of the great poet and playwright Friedrich Schiller, who died in 1805. It was widely believed until now that the repose of the poet, who both lived in Weimar, had been uninterrupted.

Even by the standards of an East German state that doped its athletes and was a master of cloak-and-dagger spy operations, the nocturnal removal of Goethe's body from its tomb and subsequent treatment with various chemicals appears outlandish.

Goethe, like Martin Luther and the Prussian King Frederick II, was among the great figures of German history that the former East German state used to buttress the patriotism of its citizens and its claims to represent the true Germany beside a "decadent" West Germany. The tombs of all three men lie in what was East Germany.

The revelation comes at a sensitive time. Weimar has just embarked on a series of celebrations and performances to mark the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth and the city's selection by European Union culture ministers as Europe's "cultural capital" for 1999. It is the first city of the former Soviet bloc to be honored in this way.

The report made public Friday said that seven people, including the former rector of Jena University and a director of the Museum of Early History in Weimar, carried out the work on Goethe's corpse.

They loaded his body onto a cart as night fell on Nov. 2, 1970, and pulled the contraption the short distance to the Goethe museum.

None of the people involved in the operation could be reached for comment on Thursday. It was unclear how many of them, if any, are still alive. But Weimar officials were emphatic in confirming that the exhumation did take place.

They said the report, which had been kept in the anatomy department of the

BRIEFLY

Israel Plays Down A PLO Meeting

JERUSALEM — Israel shrugged off as insignificant a meeting on Thursday between foreign diplomats and Palestinian officials at the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Arab East Jerusalem.

The gathering appeared to fly in the face of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's assertion that he had put an end to such meetings, which he viewed as a violation of peace deals. (Reuters)

Thousands of Iraqis Plan Pilgrimage

ARAR, Iraq — Thousands of Iraqis camped out in tents at the border post of Arar on Thursday, waiting to cross to Saudi Arabia to join the annual hajj pilgrimage. Hundreds more took flights from Iraq and Libya, whose leaders were challenging international restrictions on their countries. (AP)

Orphanage Deaths Alleged in Egypt

CAIRO — Prosecutors in a province north of Cairo opened an investigation Thursday into allegations that an orphanage sold the organs of some of the children in its care, resulting in a number of deaths.

The allegations were made earlier this week by 10 Parliament members, who demanded that the state launch a probe. (AP)

Mexicans Arrest Fugitive Officer

MEXICO CITY — A fugitive dissident army officer who has publicly accused the armed forces of justice abuses has been arrested by military police, the Defense Ministry announced.

Lieutenant Colonel Hildegarde Bacilio Gomez, a 43-year-old army surgeon, was detained Wednesday in the main square of his hometown, the city of Pachuca in central Mexico. (AP)

BALLOON: Tired British-Swiss Team Gets Green Light to Start Across Atlantic Ocean

Continued from Page 1

replied: "That is what we are all here for. O.K., you are on your way across the Atlantic."

On Wednesday, the balloon's 18th day aloft, the pilots complained of exhaustion and worried that the propane used in the balloon's burners might run out before the craft reached the finish line: 9,277 degrees west longitude.

But a team spokeswoman in Geneva, Monika Pieren, said that if wind directions and speeds corresponded to the meteorological forecasts, the balloon would have enough propane to reach Mauritania and the goal line before fuel ran out.

The balloonists will try to avoid landing in Algeria or Libya, where they are uncertain of the political climate. A ditching at sea has not been ruled out.

After the balloon took off from Chateau-d'Oex, Switzerland, it flew southward, reaching 9,277 degrees west longitude before catching a favorable jet stream and heading eastward around the world. Thus, 9,277 degrees west longitude represents the finish line.

Mr. Piccard and Mr. Jones stand to win a \$1 million prize and a cup from the beer maker Anheuser-Busch. Two years ago the company offered the prize and a trophy, the Budweiser Cup, to the first balloonist to circle the world nonstop.

Gregory Hendricks, a Budweiser spokesman, said this week that the challenge remained in effect, and added: "We're wishing good luck to the Breitling crew."

The Breitling balloon faced staggering problems to get this far. Besides the vagaries of wind direction and speed, there were storms to avoid and regions of

dead air where the balloon might have become marooned into fuel run out.

There were many technical problems, including the accumulation of ice on the propane burners. Worst of all, some of the nations along the round-the-world track did not open their airspace to the balloon and had to be avoided. China gave last-minute permission, but only on condition that the balloon remain south of the 26th parallel, which is north of Hong Kong but well south of Shanghai.

Sometimes the balloon crawled at 20 miles an hour, but in stretches where the crew could exploit jet streams, the Breitling sped at more than 100 miles an hour. On two occasions, prompted partly by the need to scrape ice off burners and partly to escape the bad-smelling air inside the crew capsule, the balloonists ventured outside their pressurized crew

compartment into the thin, frigid air above 20,000 feet.

Heading for 'Finish Line'

The team meteorologist, Luc Trulleman, said Thursday that the balloonists would try to cross the "finish line" over Mauritania on Saturday at around 1700 GMT, Reuters reported.

Mr. Noble, the flight director, said: "No doubt they have the will and the spirit to go on. Let's hope and pray they have a safe landfall in North Africa."

No decision had been made on a landing site, but a spokesman, Gerard Sermier, said the balloon might head south to try to land in Mali where conditions were expected to be better. The balloon, traveling at 100 kilometers (60 miles) per hour, was to climb into the jetstream and cross the Atlantic at speeds of about 135 kilometers per hour.

حسين بن علي

In Russian Far East, New Cheap Labor for the West

By Russell Working
New York Times Service

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia — It was well after dark on a recent evening, but the red brick garment factory on a bluff overlooking the Sea of Japan was ablaze with light. From inside the building came a haunting song, unfamiliar in this overwhelmingly Russian city: The seamstresses were singing in Chinese.

Of the many incongruities born of the increasingly complex global economy, this may be among the strangest. For here at Russia's eastern extremity, Chinese workers labor alongside Russians making clothes for a South Korean company, which put its factory here partly to avoid U.S. quotas on apparel imports.

And Russia, which had visions of reinventing itself as a world-class market economy, now finds itself in the company of nations like Indonesia and El Salvador, attractive to outside investors in part for rock-bottom wages.

Seamstresses here often work six days a week and for as little as 11 cents an hour. The factory is owned by S.H. International, one of a growing number of South Korean companies making clothes in Russia, in this case T-shirts and sweatshirts, that often end up in American stores like the Gap.

Similar factories have popped up in 10 cities in the Russian Far East, from the hard-scrabble town of Partizansk, where three of the four coal mines have closed in the last two years, to Vladivostok, a military port of 700,000 that until 1992 was off-limits to foreigners.

American apparel companies have long farmed out work to manufacturers in low-wage countries. But in an elaborate global system known as the Multi-Fiber Arrangement, which is supposed to be dismantled by 2005, the United States, like Europe, established restrictions on imports from countries whose exports were thought to threaten the domestic apparel industry.

South Korean textile companies, limited by U.S. quotas for decades, have sent their cloth to be sewn in faraway factories in the Caribbean and Latin America, which face no such quotas. But now South Koreans are finding a new place to set up shop.

"Through other countries such as Russia, you can enter the United States essentially through the back door," said Charles Kernaghan, director of the National Labor

Committee, an industry watchdog group based in New York.

For Russia, the apparel companies are a double-edged sword. They provide jobs in a region desperate for investment, and in some cases they reopen closed Soviet-era factories. But some critics fear that the presence of Chinese laborers living on factory grounds is an invitation for the sweatshop conditions common to many South Korean factories in Latin America.

"There's not much good in the whole arrangement, but there's a deficit of jobs here," said Alexander Prosekov, deputy head of the Committee for Industry in the Primorye Re-

After a brief post-Communist dream of capitalist riches, Russia now finds itself in the ranks of Third World nations.

gional Administration, which includes Vladivostok. "At least they pay salaries regularly."

The United States is unlikely to object to the imports from Russia. A Commerce Department official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the practice was legal as long as there was "substantial transformation" of the clothing in Russia.

While the United States does limit imports of women's coats, there are no such limits on the production of clothing of the sort made here — polo shirts, sweatshirts and sweaters. Vladivostok, only a bit more than 720 kilometers (440 miles) from Seoul, offers a bargain-rate work force. The average hourly cost of an apparel industry employee in South Korea in 1998 was \$2.69, including wages, taxes and benefits, according to industry figures.

Though that seems little compared with the U.S. average of \$10.12, the average Russian hourly cost is just 56 cents.

The Russian figure is less than half that of Guatemala, where the majority of sewing factories are owned by South Koreans, and comparable to China's, where employers say apparel workers cost an average of 43 cents an hour. But exports from Russia, unlike those from China, face few trade restrictions.

These figures, low as they are, probably do not reflect the true take-home pay, according to the National Labor Committee, which has studied wage rates in China and Latin America.

And Eastern workers earn far below the industry averages for Russia. Russian seam-

stresses at S.H. International, for example, earned 21 cents an hour on average when the regional administration's Committee for Industry last surveyed local wages in October. The average Chinese worker there earned 11 cents an hour. S.H. International's general director, Hak Lee, declined to discuss specific figures at the factory.

The apparel makers have set up shop in unlikely places. Partizansk, a town of 65,000 three hours by car from Vladivostok, might not seem an ideal multinational manufacturing and trade center.

But the Seoul-based Seishin Apparel Co. bought and remodeled a bankrupt Soviet-era clothing factory there in 1997 for \$760,000 to expand sales in America, said its general director, Joo In Ha. The Russian unit, Koruss, sold \$1.68 million worth of sweatshirts, dresses and polo shirts to Gap in 1998.

Vera Karas, a manager at Koruss, said the regional administration initially resisted the company, fearing it might exploit workers. "But that's not going to happen," she said. She had worked at the plant when it was Russian-owned and said that the Korean owners treated employees well and hired some Russian managers, like her.

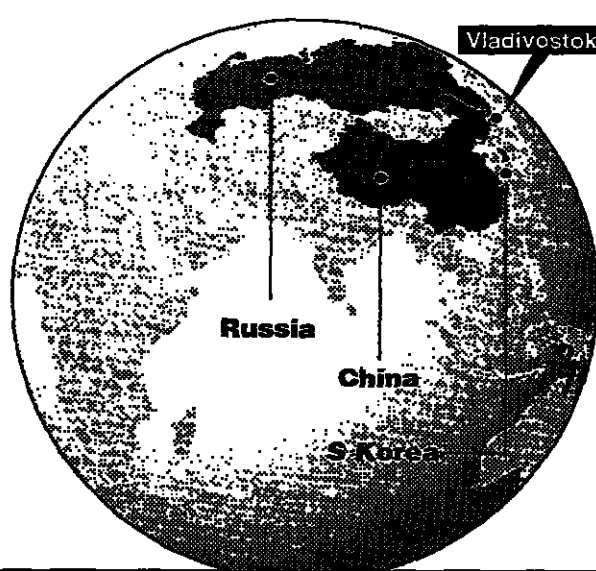
Since last May, she added, wages have more than doubled. (In dollar terms, though, they have actually fallen as the ruble collapsed.)

Some 600 cutters, seamstresses and others work at tables in Koruss' warehouse-sized rooms. Most of them are Russian women; some of the new ones are Chinese. They regularly work five 9-hour or 10-hour days, and often spend Saturdays at the sewing machines as well. Koruss employees are paid extra for overtime work, but at S.H. International in Vladivostok, workers said their overtime pay per hour was less than their regular hourly pay.

While filling a big order in November, Koruss employees worked several seven-day weeks, they said. Ms. Karas said this was untrue.

"You can only go to the toilet when a bell rings," said a former Koruss employee who quit after a month. "If they catch you talking, you get in trouble. Sometimes we didn't leave until 7 P.M. For those who have families, I don't know how they do it."

Some employees, however, say the work is very welcome. Lyubov Vonyagina, 54, is part of a team that must produce 1,900 T-shirts a day. When they fall short, they stay late. Still, she says she is not overworked, and scoffs at workers who complain.



Trade Limits

To help protect the domestic market against low-priced imports, the United States, like other rich industrial nations, sets controls on a wide variety of apparel and textile goods. These limits, or quotas, have been in place for about 40 years but are expected to mostly end by 2005.

TYPE OF APPAREL AND QUOTA LIMITS ON IMPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES: 1998 QUOTA PERCENT IN DOZENS FILLED

RUSSIA Only one quota		
Women's and girls' wool coats	54,801	91.7%
SOUTH KOREA Three examples of many quotas		
Women's and girls' wool coats	39,282	99.4%
Cotton knit shirts	1,421,090	99.1%
Cotton pants and shorts	550,225	99.3%

Sources: Department of Commerce, Customs Service

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Commission's 'Crisis' Is a Good Sign

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The first thing to get straight about the political earthquake that hit the European Commission in Brussels this week is that it is not a "crisis," as so many commentators have unthinkingly concluded.

Quite the contrary. The sudden resignation of all 20 members of the European Union's executive body, following allegations of corruption and incompetence, is the best thing that has happened to the cause of European unity in many years.

For the first time, democracy is breaking through at the European level in a way that ordinary citizens can easily understand. The clash is not over olive oil prices or value-added taxes, the kind of complex and tedious issues so often associated with Brussels.

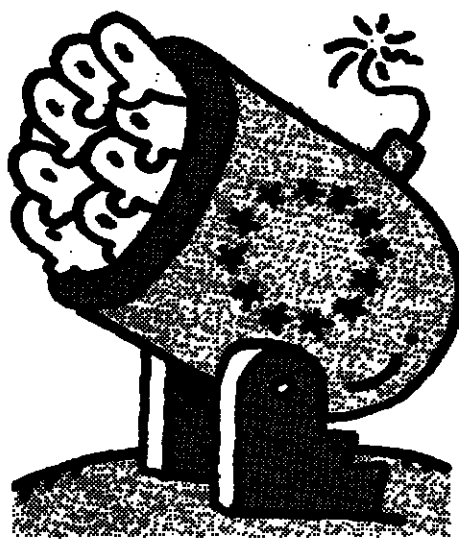
The all-too-human failings of which the commission was accused by a committee of independent experts — sloppy management, cronyism and irresponsibility in administering public funds — are only too depressingly familiar in national, not to mention local, politics.

And the resignation of the commissioners, when threatened with a vote of censure in the European Parliament, looks similar to the fall of a European national government that has lost its parliamentary majority.

If this is a crisis, it is only so in the sense that Magna Carta was a crisis for King John (whose French name, Jean Sans Terre, bears an uncanny resemblance to that of Jacques Santer, the disgraced president of the commission).

By engineering the downfall of the commission, the European Parliament has begun to answer one of the most powerful criticisms long leveled against the European Union — that it is run by "faceless" bureaucrats in Brussels, unaccountable to public opinion.

Even many of the EU's stoutest defenders have been uneasy over the so-called democratic deficit in its institutional machinery. Democratic scrutiny of the decision-making process has been conducted either at one remove by national parliaments or by the hitherto relatively powerless European Parliament.



creasing authority will ensure that the Union's delicate institutional balance should remember that it has far too long been skewed in favor of the member states.

Now the governments are going to find themselves obliged to appoint better people to the commission or have them removed again by the Parliament. The show of political force should equally attract a higher caliber of candidate to run for the Parliament — also much to be desired — and enliven the European elections due to be held in June.

There is still a long way to go. The Parliament has asserted control over the commission's management functions, not over EU policies. Magna Carta it is not. But it is a huge first step down the road toward making the EU more responsive to its citizens.

E-mail address: Thinkahead@ihf.com

Deutsche Bank Raises Funds For Expansion

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Deutsche Bank AG, still awaiting U.S. approval for its takeover of Bankers Trust Corp., announced Thursday it was raising a "war chest" of 6 billion Deutsche marks (\$3.38 billion) earmarked for expansion in Europe.

Sending a signal that Europe's banks are due for a fresh round of mergers and acquisitions, Germany's biggest bank announced it would conduct a capital increase in April "to help the bank equip itself financially for the continuing consolidation in Europe."

An undisclosed part of the freshly raised funds would help finance the \$10.1 billion purchase of Bankers Trust, it said. But the remainder would be held in reserves so that Deutsche Bank could seize opportunities in what the German bank called a "second phase of consolidation" among Europe's banks.

"In Europe, our home market, the consolidation is not at an end but rather in a first phase," said Chief Executive Rolf Breuer.

Until now, most mergers have involved national champions teaming up with each other, but a looming new round of cross-border alliances is in its infancy, Mr. Breuer said at the bank's Frankfurt headquarters.

Mr. Breuer declined to be specific about concrete targets. But with its new reserves, which a bank spokesman



Mr. Breuer taking questions at the news conference on Thursday.

called a "war chest," Deutsche Bank stands poised to take advantage of "all options" to expand its European "mo- saic," he said.

The introduction of the euro, the 11-nation common currency, in January has accelerated a wave of mergers in banks from London to Madrid. With the advent of the euro, financial giants in previously sequestered national markets found themselves reduced overnight to regional addresses in a vast new economic bloc that rivals the United States in magnitude.

The euro adds pressure to create economies of scale after Wall Street two years ago heralded a global merger race with the creation of a new class of financial titans such as Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. and Salomon Smith Barney.

Deutsche Bank said it expected to receive U.S. approval for the takeover of Bankers Trust, the eighth-largest U.S. finance house, in the second quarter.

France, long seen as the most po-

See BANK, Page 12

Rover Loss Hits Profit at BMW

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

FRANKFURT — Bayerische Motoren Werke AG said Thursday its 1998 group net profit fell 28 percent because of a huge loss at its Rover Group subsidiary in Britain.

BMW's drop in net profit, to 903 million Deutsche marks (\$508 million) from 1.25 billion DM in 1997, was bigger than analysts had expected. BMW said its 1998 earnings from ordinary activities at its BMW car unit rose 24.5 percent, to 3.92 billion DM. But the Rover unit posted a loss of 1.87 billion DM. Analysts forecast a 1.03 billion DM loss in 1998.

"For BMW, 1998 overall was a successful year," the company said. "In contrast, Rover, including reorganization costs, posted a significantly higher loss."

BMW shares closed at 641.50 euros (\$705.52), up 21.50 euros, helped by BMW's decision to split its stock. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

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CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	SF	Yen	CS	Dane	Greek	Swede	
London (a)	1.6301		2.3704	191.97	2.4737	11.0293	476.95	13.254	
New York (a)			1.6297	1.4577	117.575	1.519	6.7415	292.985	8.109
Tokyo	118.75	193.52	81.83		78.13	17.58	N.O.	1.455	
Toronto	1.5178	2.4736	1.0412	1.2925		0.924	0.5101	0.1871	
Zurich	1.4521	2.3663				0.9563	21.5044	0.4969	0.1793
One euro	1.1012	0.676	1.5975	129.78	1.6728	7.4321	321.45	8.928	
One SDR	1.3675	0.8417	1.9951	161.952	2.0806	9.2568	400.47	11.191	
Other Dollar Values									
Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
Argentine peso	0.0995	Indonesian rupiah	230.81	N. Zealand \$	1.8848	Sov. ruble	40.49		
Australian \$	1.5939	Italian lire	46.00	Norw. krone	7.7193	S. Afric. rand	4.2266		
Brunei dollar	1.25	Japanese yen	100.00	Pakistani rupee	50.49	S. Korea won	125.4		
Canadian \$	0.6975	Malay. dollar	4.014	Phil. peso	38.27	Taiwan \$	33.12		
Chinese yuan	8.2787	Kuwaiti dinar	0.3042	Polish zloty	3.92	Thai baht	37.30		
Czech koruna	34.58	Leban. pound	150.00	Singapore dollar	23.41	Turkish lra	34.140		
Egypt. pound	2.4825	Malay. ringgit	3.7095	Saudi riyal	2.752	UAE dirham	3.671		
Hong Kong \$	7.749	Mexican peso	9.655	Singapore \$	1.7238	Venez. bolivar	579.0		
European Cross Rates									
Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
Belg. franc	20.4166	59.8536	0.8219	19.36	2.0919	1.1486	2.0710	2.369	207.46
Den. krone	9.50	1.3399	21.98	19.22	68.82	145.93	6.75	59.30	0.65
Fin. markka	0.0071	14.7791		0.0064	3.04	7.5495	0.3071	2.695	1.9457
Fr. franc	0.0167	14.7607	1.1032		3.359	8.2899	0.3388	2.9746	3.2719
Ger. mark	0.0141	4.8684	0.3389	0.3962		2.454	0.101	0.0075	0.0756
Irish punt	0.0078	1.2622	0.1225	0.12	0.007		0.0402	0.357	0.0473
Italian lire	140.71	4.2999	89.54	25.44	90.00	248.56		0.0764	0.0311
Neth. guilder	0.1661	5.6229	0.3706	0.236	1.1367	2.7981	0.1196		1.0972
Port. escudo	14.2049	48.48	23.717	26.403	102.01	36.56	10.356	0.0174	120.49
Span. peseta	12.0171	412.4	21.984	23.365	85.0718	211.27	0.8971	75.007	82.992

The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.
 Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
 The Associated Press.

Page 15

هكذا من الأمل

Thursday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

[illegible]

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

[illegible]

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

[illegible]

ASIA/PACIFIC

Nissan Chief Concedes He Mismanaged Debts

Agence France-Press
TOKYO — The chairman of Nissan Motor Co., which is negotiating an alliance with Renault SA, admitted Thursday his mismanagement of the company's debt had driven the company into a desperate search for foreign help.
 "Up until a few years ago, the holding of large liabilities with interest in Japan was not necessarily a problem in management," Yoshiyuki Tsuji said at a news conference. "But it is becoming clear that the idea does not work."
 Many other Japanese companies and banks have suffered as debts swelled after the collapse of Japan's "bubble" economy in the early 1990s.
 "We cannot comment on other Japanese firms, but at least Nissan managers are responsible for leaving growing liabilities with interest untouched," Mr. Tsuji said.
 Japan's Jiji Press agency said the remarks indicated Mr. Tsuji was ready to resign once Nissan reached a final deal with Renault.
 Renault said Tuesday it had begun exclusive negotiations with



Mr. Tsuji at his press briefing.

Nissan to take a 35 percent stake in the company for a reported 700 billion yen (\$5.9 billion). Nissan, whose board will meet Friday to discuss Renault's offer, wants to seal a pact within two weeks.
 Nissan's debt stood at 2.5 trillion yen as of March 1998. Concern about the company's debt level apparently led DaimlerChrysler AG to end talks with Nissan last week.
 Nissan is still "competitive in terms of technology and development ability," said Mr. Tsuji, who is also chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association. "I don't think we have to rely on others overseas in such a field."
 Nissan has warned it is facing a group net loss of 30 billion yen for the financial year ending this month.
 Also on Thursday, Japanese trade officials said they would review Renault's offer to prevent any leak of sensitive defense information. Nissan, Japan's second-largest carmaker, is also a major supplier of defense equipment to the government, producing multiple rocket launcher systems and mine-sweep-

Japan Urged to Speed Aid to Asian Neighbors

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
HANOI — Japan came under pressure from its Asian trading partners Thursday to speed outlays from a \$35 billion aid package for the crisis-hit region and to simplify conditions for receiving the aid.
 Financial officials from the Association of South East Asian Nations, meeting in Hanoi with their counterparts from Japan, South Korea and China, also expressed hope that the regional financial crisis that began in 1997 was bottoming out.
 The director of Bank Indonesia, Miranda Goeltom, said ASEAN hoped Japan would accelerate distribution of funds from its so-called Miyazawa Plan because many countries in the region were suffering badly from the crisis.
 The plan is named for Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who announced a \$30 billion aid package last October. Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi has pledged an additional \$5 billion.
 Ms. Goeltom said Japan was also considering broadening its aid to Asia by lending to countries not targeted by the Miyazawa Plan.
 Japan's deputy finance minister for international affairs, Eisuke Sakakibara, said at a news conference that Japan was willing to provide additional assistance to Asian countries on top of the money it had earmarked for the Miyazawa Plan.
 Mr. Sakakibara, known as "Mr. Yen" for his influence in the currency market, had said that ways to increase the use of the yen would be discussed at the meeting, apparently to address Japanese concern at the excessive weight given to the dollar in the region.
 Southeast Asian currencies have depreciated considerably against the dollar since Thailand floated the baht in July 1997, triggering economic troubles throughout the region.
 China, for its part, again promised its yuan would not be devalued.
 "There is no doubt that China is committed to the stability of the yuan," said Xiao Gang, deputy gov-

Investor's Asia		
Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
11000	1500	17000
10800	1400	16000
9500	1250	15000
8500	1100	14000
8200	950	13000
7500	800	12000
1998	1998	1998
Exchange Index	Exchange Index	Exchange Index
Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
10,659.32	1,466.07	10,940.07
Singapore Straits Times	1,466.07	1,470.16
Sydney All Ordinaries	2,967.70	2,877.80
Tokyo Nikkei 225	15,737.92	16,268.11
Kuala Lumpur Composite	515.34	511.85
Bangkok SET	362.91	356.80
Seoul Composite Index	578.98	600.52
Taipei Stock Market Index	6,895.01	6,757.07
Manila PSE	2,024.05	1,982.79
Jakarta Composite Index	Closed	387.88
Wellington NZSE-40	2,141.43	2,169.81
Bombay Sensitive Index	Closed	3,572.71

Very briefly:

- Sime Darby Bhd. and DMIB Bhd. shares were halted on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange to announce that plans to merge Sime Darby's tiremaking operations with those of DMIB had been postponed, an exchange official said.
- Japan Tobacco Inc. rose 140 yen, or 12.6 percent, to close at 1,250 yen (\$10.59) after a newspaper report said the company would form a joint venture with Zeneca Group PLC of Britain to develop a genetically engineered high-yield rice crop.
- Nippon Steel Corp. is forecasting a group pretax profit of 15 billion yen, down 83 percent from last year, for the year ending this month, blaming losses on its stock portfolio. Net profit is expected to be 2 billion yen, down 18 percent, while sales are expected to be 2.8 trillion yen, down 9 percent.
- Singapore Land Ltd., the country's largest commercial landlord, said 1998 profit fell 38 percent, to 54.8 million Singapore dollars (\$31.7 million), hurt by higher interest expenses.
- Development Bank of Singapore made a general offer for all the shares outstanding of Kwong On Bank Ltd. DBS offered in December to buy 65 percent of the voting rights of Hong Kong-based Kwong On Bank for about \$293 million.
- Daishowa Paper Manufacturing Co. is to cut its payroll by 11 percent and eliminate 400 of its 3,600 jobs as a result of weak demand.

News Corp. Sets Up an Office in Beijing

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
BEIJING — News Corp. opened an office in Beijing on Thursday to oversee the media conglomerate's investments in China, which include a television network, satellite TV and joint ventures with a newspaper.
 "Developments in the media industry in China, including rapid technological change, make us optimistic about the potential for our business here," Gareth Chang, the News Corp. executive director who runs the company's STAR TV network, said at an opening ceremony.
 Mr. Chang also said that News Corp. planned to increase its financial news reporting for viewers in China and might set up a separate

Chinese-language news channel for the region.
 The opening was an additional by the News Corp. chairman and chief executive, Rupert Murdoch, to position the company for any future opening of China's tightly controlled media business.
 STAR TV, a wholly owned subsidiary based in Hong Kong, broadcasts to tens of millions of homes in China.
 A STAR TV joint venture, Phoenix Satellite TV, was adopted by cable operators in southern Guangdong Province in 1997, the first satellite television operator from the mainland to secure such official approval.
 News Corp. also has a joint venture with the official Communist

Party paper, the People's Daily, to produce an Internet service with technology information.
 News Corp. was blacklisted in 1993 after Mr. Murdoch angered Beijing by saying that satellite television and telecommunications posed an "unambiguous threat to totalitarian regimes everywhere."
 The Australian-born mogul has since worked to repair the damage, crowning his efforts with a trip to Beijing and a meeting with President Jiang Zemin in December.
 News Corp. appointed its director of business development in China, Laurie Smith, to head the Beijing office. News Corp. had assets of \$36 billion at the end of 1998 and revenue of \$14 billion.
 (Reuters, Bloomberg)

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116 MERILL LYNCH AMER. INC. PTF.	123 NAB CORP. MANAGEMENT	130 RICHMOND
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
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Abstract

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The Digital Workplace

Network Appliance Finds Its Place on the Road

Mobility and the spread of the Web are the trends in corporate PC use.

Desktop and notebook personal computers continue to get cheaper, lighter, smaller, faster and thinner. In fact, the PC itself has shrunk to the size of a chip, at least in the labs.

Manufacturers such as STMicroelectronics of France and National Semiconductor of the United States have developed PC-on-a-chip systems. This breaks the ground for real integration-enabling gadgets that are being called by a variety of names: information appliances, smart packs and smart devices. Maybe "network appliance" is a better term, because industry experts say that these devices will be talking to each other and connecting to corporate and home networks, which are increasingly based on Internet Protocol, or IP.

Enabling technologies like wireless data communication protocols and products are emerging from the likes of Symbianics of Great Britain and Nokia of Finland. U.S.-based Sun Microsystems is offering Jini software to enable "plug and play," and Wind River Systems of the United States and 3Soft of Germany are making embedded software to drive the applications.

The days of lugging a portable PC, mobile phone, personal organizer plus related cables, battery packs and accessories may be over. The chips will not be available in volume for at least another year, however.

That is a glimpse into the future. What is happening today? "The price of PCs and notebooks is still dropping," says Andy Brown, PC research analyst at International Data Corp. (IDC). "There is sustained growth in large and medium corporate accounts. PC and notebook

sales are driven by IT managers' replacing desktop units before the Y2K bug can afflict their systems. In addition, the migration to Pentium II continues," he says.

"The sub-notebook market is a very interesting one," adds Mr. Brown, in reference to the demand for mobility from corporate-PC users.

The popularity of devices such as the Walkman, mobile phone, cordless phone and palmtop organizer shows that Europeans appreciate mobility. Currently, mobility and the spread of the Web are the two most prevalent trends in corporate PC use.

Analysts say that this year, corporations around the globe will invest more than \$85 billion in Web technologies. By 2002, they will spend \$203 billion. The advantages of Web-based enterprise applications are accessibility, timeliness and uniformity. Corporate intranets and extranets support the trends of globalization and closer interaction between suppliers and their customers.

Today, PCs and notebooks are the dominant tools used to access corporate Web applications, but as "ubiquitous computing" takes off, it is expected that other devices will emerge.

The term "ubiquitous computing" was coined by Marc Weiser of Xerox Palo Alto Research Center in the 1980s and has become an industry buzzword today. Its original meaning envisioned the disappearance of the computer into the fabric of daily existence, where access to the computing environment would be embedded in all kinds of things, including tables, clocks and chairs.

The term as it is used today, however, refers to

very small devices, such as palmtops or mobile phones.

Another term for the concept of being able to access computer networks from a wide range of locations and with a wide array of devices is "pervasive" computing.

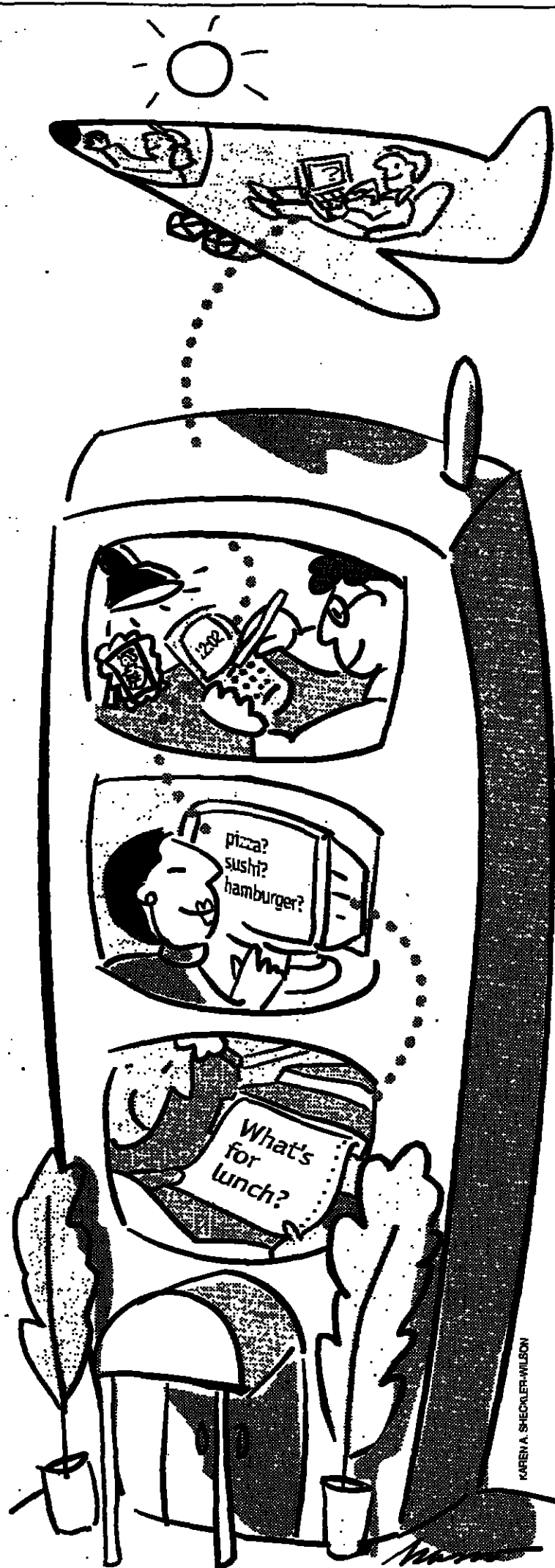
A recent survey by IDC of north European managers makes clear that executives want this kind of mobility. Some 97 percent said they are more likely to carry a mobile phone than a credit card. The same managers predicted that in 2000 they will send and receive 40 percent more faxes via mobile devices than they do today. The majority also said that they will use a wireless device for accessing e-mail and Internet services.

From NC to thin client. A couple of years ago, it looked as if the network computer (NC) was about to knock the PC off the desktop. For various reasons, such as lack of network infrastructure and lack of supporting Web applications and software, it did not happen.

The NC still exists, but industry insiders like to call it a "thin client" now. Sales will start to grow after 2000, say some analysts, as IT managers turn their attention away from the Y2K issue and start to acquire new equipment.

The NC is appearing in the corporate world as a replacement of "dumb" terminals in all kinds of environments, from university libraries to hospitals and government offices.

The largest Java-based NC deployment in Europe, according to Sun Microsystems, is at the French executive employment agency APEC, with its 400-seat JavaStation NC implementation. Valerie Thompson



Too Many Mailboxes Mean Too Little Time

Managing voice and data on a single network can make work easier.

The ability to carry voice, data and even video over a single network would be a great advantage for those who run private or public communications infrastructures.

The benefits are well-rehearsed. Cisco Systems estimates that the cost of running a single network for all traffic types can save enterprises between 30 percent and 50 percent annually through reduced operational costs, better performance, improved flexibility and better control. A single network for voice and data also offers the ability to develop and deploy new applications faster.

The same economies are available to public telecommunications networks that are fighting for their very survival. This bleak reality was underlined last fall by Ron Sommer, chief executive officer of Europe's largest telephone company, Deutsche Telekom. Since the liberalization of the German telecommunications market at the start of 1998, the company is estimated to have lost as much as 30 percent of the lucrative long-distance market, more than Mr. Sommer had expected to lose over several years. He has announced his intention to cut prices by as much as 63 percent to win back customers and has said that the company is "under enormous pressure" to cut costs.

How will it help me?

The real question is whether integrated networks will improve life for those who use the various technologies routinely in their work.

The short answer is yes, and one of the greatest boons will be so-called "unified messaging." Research commissioned by Pitney Bowes Inc., a U.S.

maker of postage meters that is now positioning itself as a "messaging" company, and conducted by the Institute for the Future in Menlo Park, California, found that the average corporate worker receives more than 200 messages a day, including voice and e-mail, faxes and paging.

Employees are increasingly spending prime office time wading through the oceans of information they receive and are doing their "real" work in the evenings, early mornings or on the weekends. The problem is compounded by a tendency to send the same message in several different forms, in hopes of making contact somehow through the information blizzard.

The idea behind unified messaging is that, regardless of format, workers can pick up all their messages from a single point of their choice, at any time, rather than constantly having to check several "in trays." Workers who are traveling, for example, could pick up all their messages via mobile phone, by either reading the text-based messages on the screen or having the contents read out to them by text-to-speech translation technology. The advent of "third generation" mobile phones, designed to handle data as well as voice, will encourage this development.

Alternatively, the recipient could have speech-based messages reproduced on a laptop or office PC. Unified messaging will make it easier to spot duplicated messages and should even help prevent them.

Currently, there are fewer than 20,000 active mailboxes on unified messaging services around the world, yet the London-based consultancy Ovum predicts that this number

will have grown to nearly 170 million by the end of 2006. Ovum's Mary Ann O'Loughlin says that "the introduction of unified messaging services will be as liberating as the introduction of direct dialing was for making phone calls."

The beauty of unified messaging is that it will benefit everyone, from those who work for themselves and use a public service to corporate staff hooked into their employers' private systems.

No more shall I roam. While unified messaging will simplify working life for those who travel a great deal, the use of a single network for all types of traffic should mean that many people need to travel less. Viesturs Vucins, head of Lucent Technologies' business communications systems group for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, says that Lockheed Martin, the U.S. space and defense company, has already linked up sites across the United States and some British Aerospace premises in Britain so that development teams can work together from their home bases.

Using Lucent's MMCX (Multimedia Communications eXchange) server technology, design teams can work together via video conferences while looking at the same drawings or documents on screen and being able to see each other's amendments. They can also share a white board, if appropriate.

Mr. Vucins says: "At last we are really seeing the beginnings of virtual corporations; it doesn't matter where people are located anymore."

At Lucent, the availability of such technology is

Continued on page 20

Working With the Web

New products for printing, faxing and keeping calendars use the Net.

The Web and network capabilities are now being integrated into all kinds of office functions. New products are coming onto the market for printing documents, storing calendars on the Web and sending faxes to e-mail.

Printing from the Web

Hewlett-Packard recently introduced the HP JetDirect 400N, the first MIO (modular input/output) print server to offer support for the Internet Printing Protocol (IPP), codeveloped by HP and Microsoft to create a standard method for sending print jobs to Internet-connected printers.

This type of printing extends user reach beyond local area networks (LANs) to any printer connected to the Internet.

"The Internet has dramatically changed the way our customers do business, and network printing is no exception," says Gary Gubitz, marketing manager for HP's Network Peripherals Solutions Division.

According to HP, there are about 9 million MIO-based printers (like the LaserJet 4Si and LaserJet 5) now in service around the globe.

Meanwhile, Illinois-based Spyglass Inc. has announced the development of an application for Tektronix, which makes Internet-enabled printers that allow users to print PostScript or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files by dragging and dropping a URL, or Web address, from a browser to the intranet printing icon on the desktop.

The Spyglass product means a user in the United States can direct a Web document from a server in Europe to a printer in Asia — without having to download the document into a local machine. Additionally, documents can be printed off a local machine, disk drive or network drive without having to open the document.

Fax to e-mail

Executives no longer have to pay hotel fax charges thanks to FaxWave Mobile Edition, which gives travelers and expatriates a free domestic U.S. telephone fax number. This enables faxes to be delivered to their e-mail address.

"It's a relief to have the ability to

receive faxes that have been sent to their standard U.S. phone number and then forwarded to the traveler's e-mail account rather than to an expensive international phone number," says Bob Dolan, president of CallWave, the company that developed the product. "FaxWave provides you with a single fax number to be used to contact you, even when you don't know where your travels will take you."

On-line calendars

Web calendars are catching on fast with busy executives.

Day-Timers Inc. recently launched a free on-line calendar service called Day-Timer Digital (<http://digital.day-timer.com>). The service includes e-mail reminders, event tracking and links to on-line shopping.

After prospective users complete a brief profile, the service automatically feeds information about their needs and interests into their on-line calendars. Consumers then have the choice of adding these events into their personal schedule.

Day-Timer Digital's event database comprises 500,000 local and national events from trade shows and conferences to sports events and horoscopes.

A similar service is MyTime.com (www.mytime.com), a newly launched Web-based calendar from Lycos that provides a way for users to create and publish not only personal but also group calendars that can be shared with a limited number of coworkers or even the entire Web.

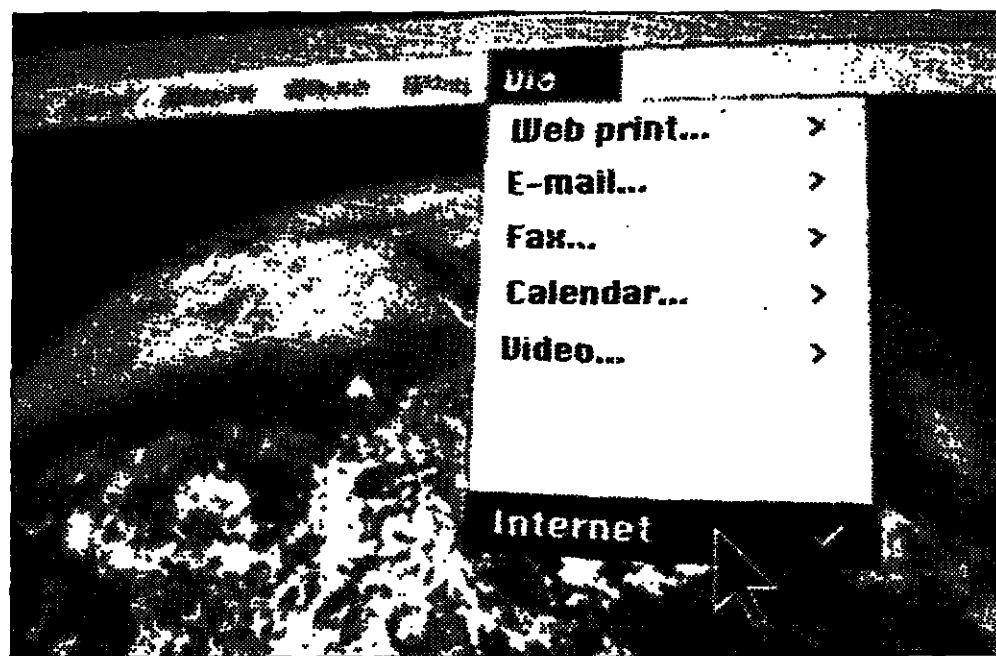
With this system, a change in schedule can instantly be communicated to group members via the MyTime.com site or e-mail notification.

MyTime will also offer synchronization capabilities with standard calendar products such as PalmPilot and Microsoft Outlook Programs.

Julia Clark

The promise of the "digital workplace" is to make the information and tools you need to do your job available no matter where you are.

Devices for accessing data and software over company networks or the Internet; network equipment and systems that carry voice, data and video; mobile phones that can handle data; and office equipment using Web technology are some of the main products that are beginning to realize the promise.



More and more office tasks are being accomplished with technologies derived from the Internet.

"THE DIGITAL WORKPLACE" was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune. Writers: Julia Clark in San Diego, Claudia Flisi in Treviso, Italy, Anne Turner in London, Terry Swartzberg in Munich, and Valerie Thompson in Zurich. PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahder.

PHONE, COMPUTER, CABLE AND INTERNET COMPANIES PLAY MIX AND MATCH

More than 70 billion-dollar M&A deals are expected this year.

Industry experts predict that at least 20 percent of companies involved in the global information technology business are likely to experience changes in ownership this year as industry giants scramble for ever-larger shares of the lucrative on-line market.

The amount of money changing hands is staggering. In 1993, the IT business racked up 12 mergers or acquisitions worth more than a billion dollars. Last year, there were 62 billion-dollar deals, and this year about 70 to 80 are expected.

Since the advent of the Web, industry experts have predicted the convergence of voice, data and video in a single product. Now that we are finally on the verge of that era, companies involved in these fields — especially telephone, cable and Internet companies — are trying to transform themselves into eclectic service providers.

Phone over cable

AT&T is a classic example. Since its new chairman, C. Michael Armstrong, took over the corporate reins, the telecommunications giant has staked its future growth on services that blend voice, cable, Web and wireless features.

Last year, AT&T moved to acquire companies like cable colossus Tele-Communications Inc. (TCI) and IBM's Global Network business. AT&T has also forged joint ventures with Time Warner Inc. (the world's leading cable company) and British Telecom, and formed marketing alliances with Internet mainstays like Yahoo, Excite and Lycos.

The TCI purchase, estimated to be worth more than \$55 billion, was completed in March. It will allow AT&T to re-enter the local phone business by

providing service over TCI's cable-television wires — thereby bypassing the Baby Bells' costly access charges. The deal would also make AT&T the largest shareholder of At Home Corp., a popular high-speed Internet access service. There is even talk of a merger between At Home Corp. and Roadrunner, Time Warner's Internet provider, to create a strong national Internet cable company.

AT&T's purchase of IBM's network business was cleared by the U.S. Justice Department in March.

IT service

In a deal that mirrors the AT&T/IBM agreement, MCI WorldCom and Electronic Data Systems (EDS) recently agreed to a \$17 billion computer-services deal. As part of the bargain, EDS will buy MCI's Ottawa-based System-house information technology services unit and take on more than 12,000 MCI employees. As a result of this deal, EDS (now the world's second-largest computer services company) will become one of the largest information technology service providers in Canada.

In January, Lucent Technologies, the leading U.S. manufacturer of network equipment — and once part of AT&T — confirmed two deals that will help it provide equipment to telephone companies that want to offer both traditional telephone calls and computer-data traffic to corporate customers.

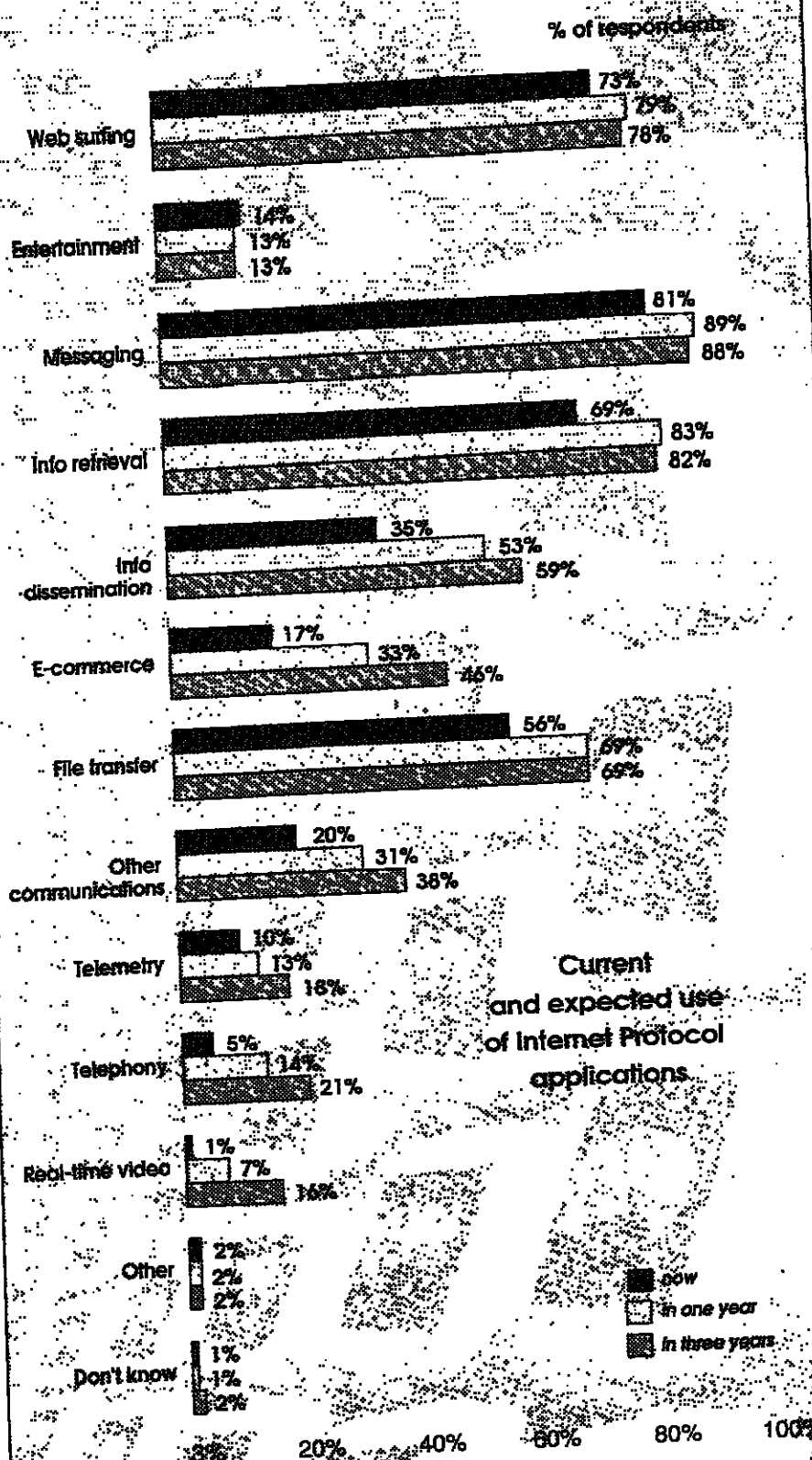
The first contract was a relatively small \$1.5 billion acquisition of Kenan Systems, a leading maker of telephone-billing and customer-care software — an area recently identified by Lucent as having great potential for future business. In the second deal, worth about \$20 billion, Lucent announced that it would be taking over the data-networking company Ascend.

Ascend had been a target of acquisition rumors for some time because of its focus on the "carrier class" market for big machines used to drive the net-

Continued on page 22

THE DIGITAL WORKPLACE

How European Businesses Are Using the Internet



EUROPE'S COMPANIES PLAN TO EXTEND INTRANETS

About three-quarters of businesses surveyed said they used Internet technology only for basic applications such as e-mail.

British Telecom saves £300 million (\$490 million) annually by presenting its internal phone directory on an intranet instead of printing hundreds of thousands of copies each year. Names and numbers are altered as necessary, whereas the paper versions were inevitably out of date before the ink was dry.

Although the BT example is an extreme one, companies of all sizes and in any sector can benefit from intranets. Typically, intranets are deployed on existing information technology infrastructure, giving employees easy access to information using "standard" Internet-derived technology such as browsers and Web sites. The data is conveyed across the network by the Internet Protocol (IP).

Starting with in-house info Robin Duke-Woolley, senior consultant with Schema, a London-based telecommunications research house, says: "Internal directories are a good example of the sort of application that is 'intranetized' first in companies, along with other support services."

An extranet is an intranet extended to trading partners. The resulting report, "Communications in the Internet Era: The Market for IP-based Services in Europe," estimates that the number of business sites in Europe using intranets and the Internet will rise from 4.1 million at the end of 1997 to 10.6 million by the end of 2003.

Currently, more than 75 percent of sites using IP technology have Internet access only for basic applications such as e-mail. Critical to business As the market for IP-based services matures, intranet applications will become more popular until growth is eventually dominated by combined intranet and Internet use.

SO MANY BOXES, SO LITTLE TIME

influencing its recruitment policy. Prospective candidates no longer have to be prepared to move to a new town or country. Mr. Vucins points out that Lucent's European marketing department is now spread across Austria, Belgium, Spain and France.

The convergence of all types of information onto a single network will also greatly help the ongoing migration toward teleworking. Why spend hours in rush-hour traffic every day if you can work more productively — and more flexibly — from home?

In February, Alcatel unveiled the IP-PCX (Internet Protocol-Powered Private Communications Exchange), which integrates enterprise voice and data, and fixed and mobile communications.

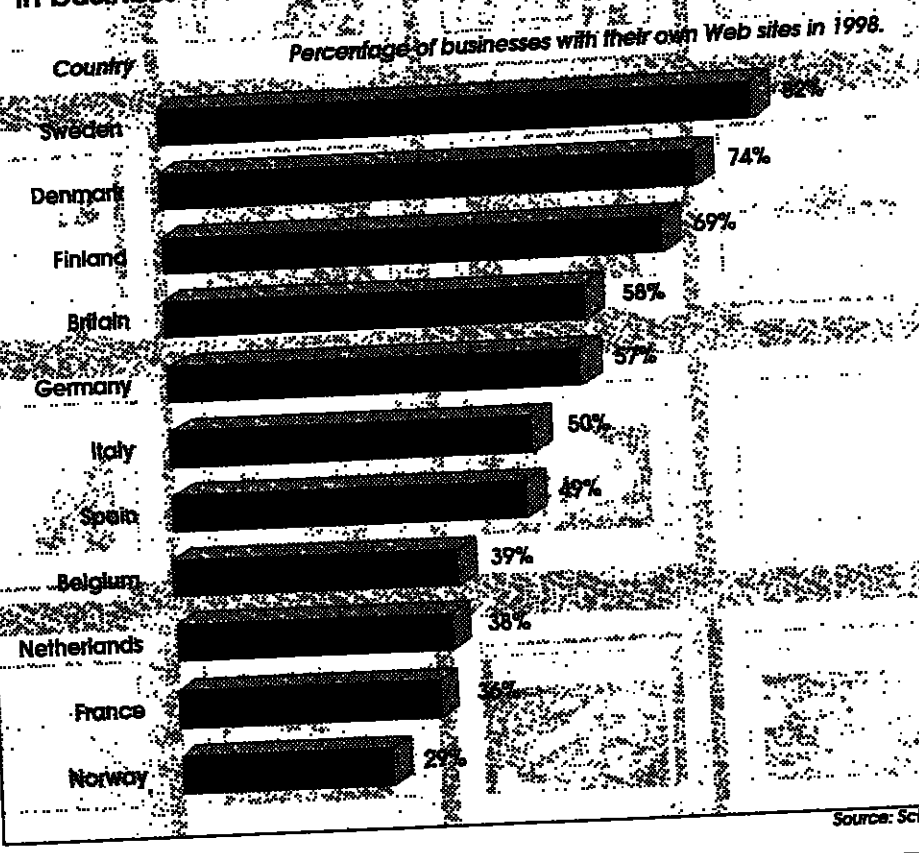
Alcatel's new generation of IP-enabled digital phones connects directly to the computer local area network so that workers have access to functions such as dialing simply by clicking on a number or person's name in a corporate directory on screen. It also means that remote workers, whether traveling or based at home, enjoy the same facilities and access to information that they would have in the office, including unified messaging.

The IP-PCX can also be used to support dispersed call centers. A call-center agent can work from home, for example, and navigate Web pages with the caller, finding and "pushing" requested information to the customer instantly.

The integration of voice and data networks will save money for the employer, and for many people, work will become an activity that no longer depends on location.

To Find Web Users, Look North

The Nordic countries lead Europe in business Web-site use.



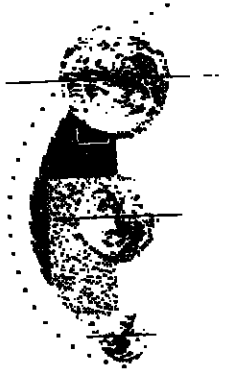
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THE DIGITAL WORKPLACE

TOUGH NOTEBOOKS FOR HARD KNOCKS

Whether the hazards are hot-coffee spills or plant-floor dust, there are laptops built to withstand them.

Mobile computers represent the fastest-growing segment of the world's information-technology hardware market. Their large and growing popularity is partially attributable to better protection against accidents and adverse conditions now offered by "ruggedized" and "rugged" notebooks. The amount of protection provided and how it is used constitute the main differences between them.

Rugged or ruggedized? Ruggedized notebooks are protected against coffee spills, drops from tabletops and the other mishaps endemic to the road warrior's life. Rugged notebooks are employed by professionals on assignment in factories, oil fields, toxic-waste sites and other environments where the notebooks are subjected to prolonged exposure to heat

and cold, shock and vibration, and fluids and dust. A common definition is: "A ruggedized notebook will probably work after hot coffee has been spilled on its keyboard. A rugged notebook is guaranteed to be functional in a driving downpour."

Rugged notebooks are much better able to survive these extreme conditions than ruggedized ones. The rugged notebooks' greater capacity to function under stress is achieved by adding more sheathing, seals and shock absorbers than are found in the ruggedized ones.

All this has its price, in terms of both weight and dollars and cents. Rugged notebooks weigh and cost up to three times as much as ruggedized ones, which, in turn, are slightly heavier and more expensive than standard models. Virtually all of the rugged-

ized notebooks manufactured by Panasonic (Toughbook), Compaq (Armada), Toshiba (Portégé and Libretto) and other leading companies feature cases made of magnesium or magnesium alloys. Magnesium is not only light, but is also strong, with about 20 times more resistance to shock and deformation than the ABS plastics forming the skeletons of standard notebooks.

Magnesium allows a Panasonic Toughbook, for instance, to survive unscathed a one-meter drop. Thanks to its great rates of heat dispersion, magnesium also serves as an air conditioner for notebooks.

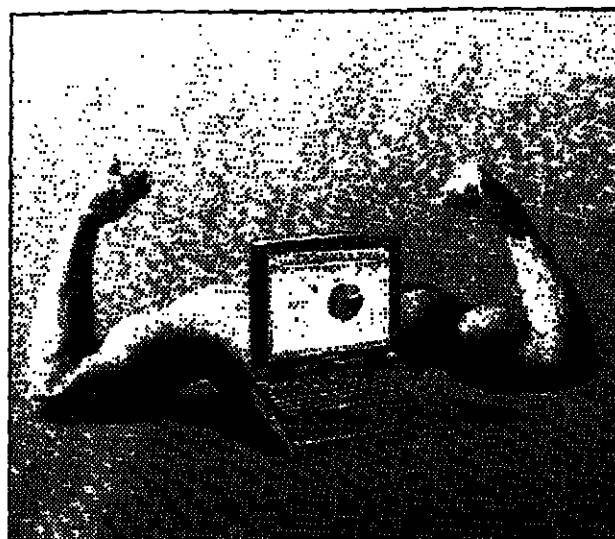
Fragile components Disk and hard drives are the most fragile components in any mobile computer. All ruggedized and rugged notebooks use some form of

wraparound cushioning to protect their drives. In the Toughbook's case, this cushioning takes the form of a gel.

The second-most delicate component in a notebook is the screen. A magnesium-based frame serves to shield the displays in most of the "hard-use" notebooks now available on the market.

Rubber, the best shield against water and moisture, is found in abundance in and on all of these notebooks: Rubber plugs seal ports, and rubber gaskets seal slots. For further protection, rugged notebooks are outfitted with rubber sheathing on the exterior.

Another easy-to-damage component in a notebook is the keyboard. All of the ruggedized and rugged notebooks come with some form of plastic keyboard sheathing. The rugged's sheathing, is,



Magnesium cases put the muscle in rugged notebook computers.

however, generally "wrap-sealed" around the keyboard. In the ruggedized ones, the sheathing floats on the keyboard.

Heavy-duty models are manufactured by FieldWorks, MITAC and Itronix. These top-of-the-line models are used to gather, crunch and transmit data in places as diverse as ocean-floor diving

bells, high-altitude balloon cabins and the cockpits of supersonic jet fighters.

The FieldWorks FW5200 has a range of operation of between -15 and 45 degrees centigrade (5 and 113 degrees Fahrenheit). MITAC puts its products' range between -20 and 50 degrees centigrade (-4 to 122 degrees Fahrenheit). Terry Swartzberg

PAPER PERSEVERES AND EVEN THRIVES IN DIGITAL OFFICES

More information means more printouts.

The digital revolution promised a "paperless" office, but few businesspeople have seen their files of "hard copies" shrink. Greater computer memory and access to a World Wide Web of information has led to more and more printed copies of memos, home pages and Adobe PDF (portable document format) files. Digital technology has also increased the sophistication of printers, copiers, scanners and other equipment for handling paper.

Actually, the situation is not as extreme as it seems, according to Hisatsugu Nonaka, president of Toshiba Europe GmbH. "The percentage of data being printed out is very small compared to the total amount maintained on hard disks and zinging its way through LANs, intranets and the Internet," he says.

He grants that this "very small" amount of paper is "in itself extremely large," but adds that the amount of data contained on the world's computers and flowing through its information networks is "enormous and exponentially growing."

"Paper is also both very practical and very permanent, at least in the eyes of today's corporate world," says Mr. Nonaka. Amassing printouts is simple and practical, and corporate officials view paper documents as "documentation of legal record."

Mr. Nonaka's insights go a long way toward explaining the failure of the paperless office to materialize, notwithstanding the slew of devices designed to replace paper documents with digital files.

Paper eaters

This year's crop of paper-eaters includes sophisticated scanners capable of devouring hand-drawn flow charts, scribbles on the backs of envelopes and business cards. These scanners—such as Visioneer's PaperPort range—come with software that can assign keywords and descriptions to the files produced by the scanners and consign them to folders.

All that compiling and scanning, of course, can mean more work, not less, at least in the short run.

Another new product designed to reduce paper use is Panasonic's UF-770 Fax, which can dispatch faxes directly to the recipient's PC. That's not a totally new feature, but the machine also routes faxes via the Internet, giving it a much lower cost of operation.

Managing documents

Another crop of innovations in photocopying poses perhaps the greatest threat to the paperless office, according to Mr. Nonaka. Even with the popularity of notebook-based presentation software, "paper has retained its position of being the prime medium of presentation and publication," he says. "And that's been thanks to the advances in technological and graphics capabilities of document managers."

Document managers are capable of printing, photocopying and faxing, and doing so simultaneously, swiftly and with a great deal of flexibility. Among new products is Toshiba's state-of-the-art DP3580. It is fast, turning out up to 35 sheets/copies a minute. It is also very sophisticated, capable of producing and storing entire brochures in memory. T.S.



Files on the disk have not yet replaced files in the drawer.

COMPANIES PLAY MIX AND MATCH

Continued from page 19

works of Internet service providers and telephone companies. Lucent has been trying to build its own data-networking business with a number of small acquisitions.

German telecommunications equipment maker Siemens is forming a new U.S.-based subsidiary called Unisphere Solutions to offer network services integrating voice, data and video. The company will be formed from Siemens Information and Communications Networks and two data-networking companies, Argon Networks and Castle Networks, that Siemens has agreed to acquire.

Compaq jumped onto the takeover bandwagon last year with the \$9 billion acquisition of Digital Equipment Corp., which runs the widely respected Internet search and navigation system AltaVista.

Earlier this year, AltaVista was transformed into a wholly owned subsidiary of Compaq, with a mission to become the Web's leading destination site for information and e-commerce. Its shares will eventually be offered to the public.

As a means to this end, Compaq has been on a buying spree, striking a \$288 million deal with on-line retailer Shopping.com Inc. and ac-

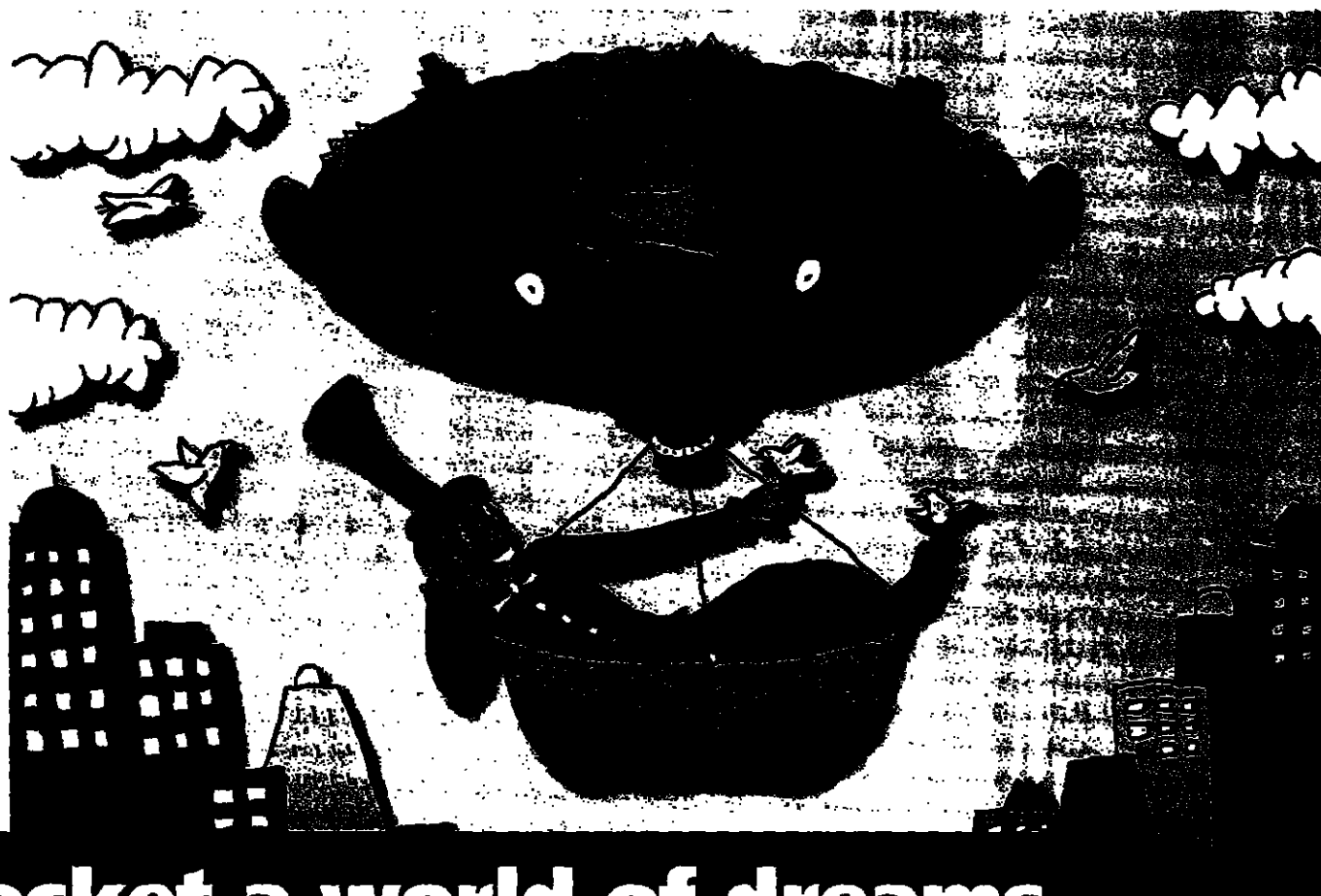
quiring Zip2 Corp., which supplies software used by a number of leading U.S. metropolitan newspapers to create local Internet media and electronic sites. Compaq executives hope the fusion will significantly increase the revenue potential for Zip2's local news media and e-commerce partners, while adding local content to AltaVista's features. Zip2 also plans to expand its network of partners into Europe in the near future.

Says Rod Schrock, president and chief executive officer of AltaVista: "Our belief is that the best Internet computing experience must include a local Internet oasis where consumers can access deep local information about activities and shopping possibilities right in their own backyards."

Compaq recently began including an AltaVista function key (which takes users directly to the Web site) on the keyboards of its consumer PCs. There are plans to include this key on Compaq business PCs in the near future.

Meanwhile, through a technology swap with Microsoft, AltaVista will soon offer free Hotmail Web e-mail service, and Microsoft will replace the Internet technology it offers as the primary search service on the Microsoft Network with AltaVista technology. J.C.

NTT
Do Co Mo



Pocket a world of dreams

Cellular phones are perhaps one of the most user-friendly devices modern technology has devised.

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We're also actively participating in the Wireless Application Protocol Forum (WAP) in its quest for a universal standard. In addition, our next logical step of full-motion video reception and transmission capability, using the Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (W-CDMA)

technology, is well under way. We hope to begin such services in early 2001.

At NTT DoCoMo's R&D center in Japan, we are dedicated to developing the mobile communications technologies of the future. We also invite leading manufacturers, operators and other R&D organizations from around the world to participate in ongoing technology exchange and open system tests.



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THE DIGITAL WORKPLACE

NEW MOBILE PHONES ARE NOT JUST TALK

Using mobiles to access data may change the way we work.

According to Marie Wold, head of the European Telecommunications and Media Institute at Deloitte Consulting, "If the job will permit it, people will move out — the sky will replace fluorescent lighting and your office can be anywhere you want, even on the beach." She is talking about the Next Big Thing in telecommunications — being able to use mobile phones for e-mail, Internet access and other data-based functions in addition to ordinary calls.

At the moment, according to Ben Timmons, director of global market development at Cable & Wireless Mobile, less than 3 percent of all traffic on mobile networks is data, but he expects this to rise to more than 40 percent by 2005. He says that the widespread

adoption of mobile data use "will probably be the next big productivity increment. It could finally make the long-term goal of a paperless office possible and herald a future very different from how we work today."

Already, many companies in different countries have developed ingenious ways of exploiting the limited data capacity on existing digital mobile networks, which are known as second generation, analog being the first.

Saving time in the field
In Britain, for example, British Gas has reduced time spent by engineers in the field on duplicated effort and administrative and logistical tasks by harnessing the Vodafone network.

Engineers now receive assignments more quickly and are able to order parts automatically for customers while on site. Identifying faults is also easier. More than 80 percent of all jobs are now completed on the first visit, and more than 80,000 data calls are passed between the host system and field staff every day. Furthermore, paper work does not have to be re-entered into the central system, reducing the number of transcription errors, and jobs that can be billed are invoiced by the engineers on the spot.

Also in Britain, racing-car designer TWR has issued its design teams phones that can connect laptops used for engine diagnostics to the Orange mobile-phone network. In this way, data from engine testing is fed straight into TWR's computer system for analysis on the spot, whether the engineer is in



Racing-car designer TWR's engineers can feed diagnostic data via mobile phones into the company's computers.

Sweden or in the pits. Workers are able to get on with their "real" work more quickly and report greater job satisfaction.

The staff of Speed, a Finnish freight company, uses the Nokia Communicator voice-and-data terminal connected to Sonera's mobile network to ensure quick response to customers requesting transport, both at home and abroad. The information passed out to staff is automatically entered onto the company's main computer for billing and administrative purposes, thereby reducing paperwork and effort.

Messaging services

In the Czech Republic, mobile operator RadioMobil has established the Paegas Info-serve service, which exploits the Short Message Service facility inherent in European digital networks. Subscribers

can access the Internet for information of their choice as well as the service's own content, including route planning, traffic news and postal-code information.

Most radical of all, in both scope and scale, is the Japanese mobile network operator NTT DoCoMo's i-mode service, launched last month. It is available to the general public, providing they buy a handset in the Digital Mova series, and offers an extraordinary wealth of services.

DoCoMo teamed up with 67 organizations, ranging from banks and airlines to travel agents, to enable users to reserve airline and concert tickets, conduct transactions with banks, receive and send e-mail, and have Internet access wherever they are. They can also request that information on stock prices, the weather and many other subjects be sent to them regularly and automatically.

In addition to offering a high level of personal convenience, NTT DoCoMo's service will enable people to work and enjoy the facilities of "the virtual office" whenever they want and regardless of where they are in Japan.

There are signs that DoCoMo's lead will shortly be followed by a host of others. In February, British Telecom signed an agreement with Microsoft to develop wireless Internet and corporate data services outside the United States — the software giant is already working with U.S. mobile systems specialist Qualcomm to do the same in the United States.

In France, Alcatel has signed a big contract with alternative operator Cegetel to provide the means to access a range of on-line interactive services that should be commercially available later this year.

A NEW STANDARD FOR WIRELESS INTERNET

As the race to bring wireless Internet access to the masses heats up, activity in the various technical developments necessary to support it has become frenetic. Alliances are made and broken, and conflicts arise.

Perhaps the most public quarrel concerning ownership of patents governing specific technology components is between Ericsson of Sweden and Qualcomm of the United States. The dispute is delaying progress in setting international standards for the next, or third, generation of mobile networks.

Unlike the first, analog, and second, digital, generations, the third generation is designed to handle all types of information, from voice calls to Internet access and e-mail. In Europe, this third generation is known as Universal Mobile Telecommunications Service (UMTS) and is scheduled to begin operating on Jan. 1, 2002, although Japan might well get there sooner.

Japan's determination to move ahead has created another split. In 1997, Ericsson, Nokia, Motorola and Unwired Planet formed a consortium to establish and develop the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP). They have since been joined by 70 other organizations, including wireless service providers, mobile phone manufacturers and software developers.

Their mission is to develop Extensible Markup Language to provide extra functions that are not available in Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), which is used to write and produce Web sites. It is HTML that allows us to click on a word in one Web document that automatically links us with another HTML page, which could be held on another server anywhere in the world.

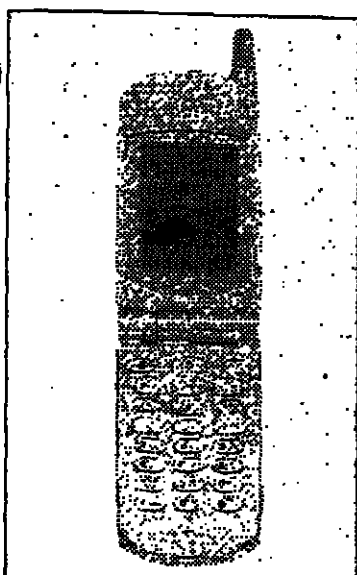
Although the consortium's first version, Wireless Markup Language (WML), is complete, the consortium is under pressure to produce the next one.

NTT DoCoMo, the biggest Japanese mobile service operator, joined the consortium in 1998, but abandoned WAP in favor of good old HTML for its new, information-rich service, called i-mode. NTT DoCoMo was not prepared to wait. It wanted its service to be able to access existing Web content, nearly all in HTML. The company also points out that by using HTML, the i-mode service is guaranteed to be compatible with the third-generation system, expected to be available in 2001.

In February, the world's largest mobile phone manufacturer, Nokia, launched its 7110 phone in conjunction with a WAP-based news service from a division of the American news channel CNN Interactive. On the same day, Unwired Planet and Korean phone-maker Samsung announced that Samsung had licensed Unwired Planet's WAP UP.Browser for deployment on its handsets.

CNN has already signed deals with mobile operators in Europe and Asia to provide an information service. The service is already live in Finland, with the Czech Republic, Israel, Denmark, Sweden, Singapore and Hong Kong to follow.

A.T.



An "4-mode" phone by NTT DoCoMo.

DON'T CALL IT CONFERENCING, CALL IT COLLABORATION

Video applications are being used for more than executive meetings.

Corporations are still using high-end videoconferencing systems for meetings between executives in far-flung places, but now other groups within organizations are beginning to use video collaboration tools. Along with the face-to-face video experience, applications such as document sharing, white boards and slide presentations are being used.

Working faster

Hoffman-La Roche researchers, for example, use four videoconferencing systems to communicate with New Jersey colleagues, enabling the Swiss chemists to work with their U.S. colleagues to develop basic pharmaceutical compounds. They say that visual collaboration helps to bring compounds to market 24 to 36 months sooner than before.

Ford Motor Co. replaced its multiple CAD/CAM (computer-aided design and manufacturing) systems with a single platform that includes videoconferencing. It enables engineers to collaborate on car design and view models, for example, to ensure that all parts fit together correctly. Proponents at Ford say en-

gineers around the world are able to develop new car designs, such as the Mondeo, which was brought to market nine months earlier than it normally would have been using more traditional collaboration efforts.

Silicon Graphics has bundled camera and videoconferencing software with its workstations for years, and while design collaboration is one of the primary ways that the systems are used, videoconferencing is not a necessary part of the collaboration effort, says a spokesperson for the company.

Customer service

Financial service providers are discovering desktop videoconferencing as a means of facilitating direct contact with remote financial experts, immediate processing of loan or credit applications and personalized customer service.

Crédit Suisse, for example, installed 80 mid-priced (\$1,300) desktop videoconferencing systems at car-leasing sites across Switzerland. Customers are able to complete the leasing transaction, from proposal to contract

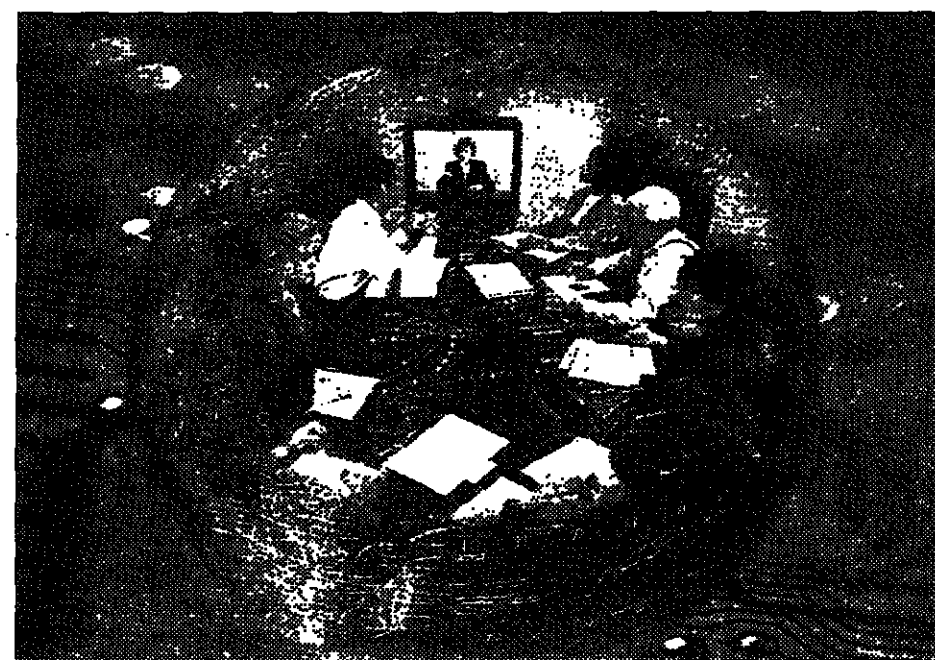
generation and loan authorization, at the same time they pick out the car.

Desktop systems

Smaller desktop systems and PC-based video communications systems are targeted for fast growth, but the total number of units sold is still relatively low. According to the latest report from the research company International Data Corp. (IDC), worldwide PC-camera shipments will increase from 606,000 in 1997 to 9.2 million in 2002, a compound annual growth of 72.3 percent.

U.S. market researcher Forward Concepts estimates that the PC category will represent about 28 percent of the videoconferencing equipment market in five years.

There are a large number of vendors entering the PC market, including European players such as ELSA and Teles of Germany and Midge Networks of the Netherlands. But the users of these PC systems are clearly early adopters. A broadband channel, faster than the one today's analog telephone lines offer, is needed for video communications, and ISDN (Integrated



Applications such as document sharing, white boards and slide shows enhance the video experience.

Services Digital Network) or faster is still recommended for better quality video.

A new breed of videoconferencing and teleconferencing system integrators have emerged across Europe. After initially targeting multinationals, they are starting to package mid-priced solutions for mid-sized companies as the national markets develop. When training, consulting, implementation and installation are packaged together, the videoconference purchase is a less complex undertaking for smaller companies.

The PC-based applications

include personal videoconferencing, video e-mail and security surveillance plus consumer applications such as "nanny cams." PC-based videoconferencing is also being used by small and medium-sized businesses such as architectural firms, dental laboratories and advertising agencies. The use of videoconferencing saves valuable time by enabling customers to see products or projects-in-development without waiting or traveling.

Despite the growing interest, personal videoconferencing is an early-adopter market. Says Kevin Kane, an IDC analyst: "Video mail is viewed as merely a nice addition to e-mail, and acceptance continues to elude videoconferencing in both business and consumer markets."

Security systems are increasingly using videoconferencing technology. Experts say that continuous surveillance through videoconferencing eliminates the high cost of employing numerous security guards for multiple sites. Some of the places under surveillance include parking lots, corridors, entryways, malls and airports.

V.T.

HOW MUCH IS SECURITY WORTH?

Implementing protection is a balancing act.

When road warriors in far-flung locations need to download sensitive business information from their corporate databases, how can they be sure that their communications are safe?

Making the connection from a Singapore hotel room, say, to a Dublin-based mainframe using a laptop and mobile phone may be relatively simple. But how secure is the connection?

How can traveling executives — much less those working from home or in the office itself — be sure that their data are safe from prying eyes and hacking fingers?

"Quite simply, you can't," says Stephen Minton, senior analyst for International Data Corp. (IDC), a worldwide information technology consultancy. "One hundred percent security doesn't exist."

He adds: "There are some very sophisticated security solutions out there, and these are improving all the time, but you have to be rational about the risks involved."

Spending more

According to recent research from IDC, the markets for network-security-related services (including network consulting, integration, and management and monitoring) will experience a compound annual growth rate of almost 25 percent over the next five years.

The market for network consulting alone will total approximately \$33 million in Europe this year, rising to around \$63 million by 2002. Correspondingly, network security implementation services will account for approximately \$48 million in spending this year and around \$97 million by 2002.

IDC points to growth in e-commerce and in corporate local-area networks (LANs) and wide-area networks (WANs) as drivers of growth in security spending.

Wider access

Growth in e-commerce and networks is closely intertwined, "two sides of the same cybercoin," says Geoffrey Doggart, e-commerce program manager for Datamonitor, a technology research firm. "If you want to unleash the power of e-commerce, you have to make it available to employees, partners and customers, this... is bound to cause security problems if the system — call it an intranet or Internet-commerce platform — is not protected adequately."

AGREEMENT ON ENCRYPTION EXPORTS

Whether they are being used in Mandalay or Manchester, enterprise security systems rely on encryption. The problem is that laws on encryption are different in different countries.

In December 1998, 33 members of the Wassenaar Arrangement, a multilateral export-control group including the United States, all European Union members and Canada, signed an agreement to institute controls on ex-

ports of mass-market encryption greater than 64 bits and eliminating controls on encryption up to 56 bits. Individual countries will decide on implementation at their own discretion.

The regulatory network is changing, but it still lags well behind the pace of technology and the market.

"Businesses large and small want a seamless market to be able to import or export cryptography based on their

needs, without fear of running afoul of some national law," says Christiaan van der Valk, deputy director of policy and business practices at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

He is also skeptical of the value of export controls. "Most businesses believe that restrictions on cryptography do not succeed in fighting crime, which is the ostensible reason for having them at all," says Mr. van der Valk.

C.F.

Even if 99 percent security were attainable, it might not be acceptable to users. The problem with digital security techniques is balancing the tightness of security against convenience for the user, because there is a cost in user-friendliness and performance with every additional bit of security on computers. Users — even those who are very comfortable with technical requirements — dislike working on really well-secured systems, because they are not as easy to access. Mr. Doggart says.

Ease of use versus safety

Access to the system itself is the first hurdle. That calls for a user identification number, a password, often a smart card and sometimes the use of biometric techniques such as reading the retina or fingerprints. Access to certain files or applications may require surmounting additional barriers, comparable to levels of security clearance in government organizations.

The Gartner Group, a technology research organization, points out a sometimes-overlooked cost of security measures — their impact on enterprise support services. In some environments, says Gartner, as much as 50 percent of all calls

to corporate help desks are related to requests for a password reset. The cost in terms of organizational efficiency depends on the complexity of the application, the frequency of password reset and employee use.

Sun Microsystems, with many road warriors among its employees, has developed a technology called Sun.net to deal with this kind of problem. "Sun.net is a three-tier system," explains Harald von Fellenberg, a Sun senior consultant based in Switzerland. "It encompasses a personal user ID, a personal identification number and a password on a credit-card-sized smart card that replicates to a four- or five-digit challenge by the gateway."

Once logged on, a user will find a customized home page set up as a home office, including e-mail and data access. Business can be conducted securely, even if the computer being used is not one's own.

Mr. von Fellenberg contrasts his company's approach with that of the banking industry. "The difference is that it is in the interest of businesses to share information. This is not the case with banks, especially in Switzerland — for legal as well as cultural reasons."

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WORLD ROUNDUP

U.S. Grand Jury Investigates Bout

BOXING A grand jury in New York is investigating whether the judges in the controversial Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis heavyweight boxing title fight received illegal payments, sources said.

The probe ordered by the Manhattan district attorney is the first to examine possible criminal conduct in the bout, which ended in upsur Saturday night when the combined scoring of the three judges ruled it a draw despite what most observers considered a clear victory by the British boxer Lennox Lewis.

Shot Putter Banned

ATHLETICS Vita Pavlysh, a Ukrainian shot put, has been banned from competition for two years by her national federation after failing a drug test during the athletics indoor world championships earlier this month. Pavlysh won the title with a throw of 21.43 meters.

Swingley Wins Idditarod

DOGGLED RACING Despite breaking two sleds, Doug Swingley won the Idditarod dog sled race for the second time Wednesday, completing the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) Anchorage-to-Nome trek in nine and a half days. Swingley, a Montanan who also won in 1995, is the only non-Alaskan to have won the race. The victory earned him \$60,000 and a new pickup. He won an additional \$9,000 for leading at the halfway point.

New Zealand Stands Firm

CRICKET A gutsy stand of 145 between Gary Stead and Chris Harris on Thursday helped New Zealand to 211 for six wickets at the close of the first day of the third test against South Africa in Wellington.

See More Business Wins

HORSE RACING Forced out of last year's race by a rival that bolted across the course, See More Business had a clear run this time and scored an impressive victory in the \$260,000 (\$424,000) Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Ridden by Mick Fitzgerald, the 16-to-1 shot beat Go Ballistic by one length, roared on by 50,000 fans at the home of English hurdle racing.

Juventus Survives Rain And a Shaggy Intruder

Bayern, Manchester and Kiev Also Advance

By Rob Hughes
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Across Europe, the UEFA Champions League quarterfinals reached their crescendo. The crowds were febrile and the weather stretched from a bone chilling frost in Kiev to a wretched downpour in Athens, where an intruder interrupted play.

This multimillion dollar round of soccer's most prized club tournament may appear as showerproof, shockproof and as secure as a spectator sport can be. Yet somehow, a dog stopped play in the Olympic Stadium in Athens, where 74,767 fans and their team, Olympiakos Piraeus, were dreaming of beating Juventus.

Olympiakos went a goal up after a header by Sinica Gagic, then almost two

up on a pitch as heavy as treacle. Shevchenko, 22, finished the contest with his 17th goal in 26 European matches.

Such accolades, of course, were paid to Ronaldo, the fine Brazil forward, from his teenage years onward. Alas, the busted soccer player we saw at the World Cup final was patched up and made to perform in similar pain and doubt at the San Siro stadium on Wednesday. He had his moments, he always will, but if the real Ronaldo is to be seen again, he must be taken out of the game and placed in caring hands until the pain in his knees and the fear in his mind are healed.

No sport is so great that it can afford to abuse and to risk its greatest talent, which is what Brazil (and its sponsor Nike) did last summer and what Inter Milan did this week. Inter held Nicola Ventola, its young striker, in reserve for an hour while Ronaldo labored. Though Ventola accepted a gift of a chance to score four minutes after replacing Ronaldo, it was too little, too late.

Manchester United rode its luck. Javier Zanetti hit the post. Peter Schmeichel, the United goalie, was given the benefit of a referee's doubt when he deliberately sprawled to impede Ivan Zamorano, and Ze Elias, Inter's other Brazilian, missed the target when free in front of goal.

When Paul Scholes, United's substitute, scored in the last few minutes to secure a 1-1 draw, Manchester advanced, 3-1, on aggregate. It was the first time United had either scored or avoided defeat in seven European games on Italian soil.

"The players torture you," said Alex Ferguson, the United coach. "But they made me proud."

United, still young but growing in experience and bolstered by \$35 million spent on Jaap Stam on defense and Dwight Yorke up front, has already met the fourth club still standing in the competition, Bayern Munich. Their two group games in the fall ended in draws. In the short time since then, Munich has developed a majestic dominance in Germany. Bayern emphasized that dominance with a 4-0 away victory in Kaiserslautern, giving it a 6-0 victory over two games.

After only eight minutes, Janos Hrutka, a Kaiserslautern defender, was sent off, harshly, by referee Urs Meier for pulling the shirt of Carsten Jancker, and Kaiserslautern was down to 10 men. Moreover, when the huge Jancker flopped to ground in reaction the shirt pulling, Bayern was given a penalty.

Stefan Effenberg scored it. Jancker scored twice more before half time, and a deflected free kick from Mario Basler made it four.

Rob Hughes is chief sports writer of The Times of London.



CUP WINNER'S CUP — Yuri Drozdov of Locomotiv Moscow falling as he battled Shuki Nagar of Maccabi Haifa in a quarterfinal played in Haifa, Israel. Moscow won, 1-0, advancing on an aggregate score of 4-0.

GAMES: IOC Changes Selection Process for Olympic Host Cities

Continued from Page 1

group called IOC 2000, which will debate and recommend change in the Olympic movement.

"What we did is a start," Mr. Hodler said. "One year from now I'll tell you if it's been successful."

Though both new committees will include individuals with no direct connection to the IOC, they will hardly be independent organizations.

The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, will be the chairman of IOC 2000. Half of the approximately 20 committee members will be IOC members whom Mr. Samaranch intends to choose personally in the weeks ahead. Asked why he thought it a good decision to name himself chairman of a group which is supposed to take an objective look at the IOC, Mr. Samaranch, who has been in office for 18 years and received a nearly

unanimous vote of confidence from the IOC on Wednesday, said, "Because I am the president of the International Olympic Committee, and this commission must be presided by the president."

Judge Keba Mbaye of Senegal, an IOC vice president and longtime Samaranch ally, will head the ethics commission, which is expected to be composed of eight members — four private individuals, three IOC members and one athlete.

Now that IOC members will not be permitted to visit the cities or receive visits, they will have to rely primarily on the report of the IOC evaluation commission, which includes six IOC members and finished visiting and assessing the candidates last year. The bidding cities also can make hour-long presentations the day before the final vote in Seoul, South Korea in June.

The six cities bidding for 2006 are Helsinki, Finland (with Lillehammer,

Norway); Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia; Klagenfurt, Austria; Sion, Switzerland; Turin, Italy and Zakopane, Poland.

On June 19, the day of the vote, the electoral college will be composed and will narrow the number of candidate cities to two. The entire IOC will then vote to choose the host. The electoral college will be composed of three athletes; one representative chosen by the association of winter sports federations; one representative chosen by the National Olympic Committees, and 11 IOC members, eight of whom will be elected the morning of the vote.

Mr. Samaranch called this reform a "first step," and emphasized that it was only a temporary solution designed to quell concerns about a selection process that was already in full motion. The IOC 2000 committee will be asked to provide a recommendation for future bidding processes before the end of the year.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

WEDNESDAY RESULTS	W	L	P	GB
Texas 7, Boston 5	1	0	0	0
New York Yankees 4, Minnesota 2	1	0	0	0
Cleveland 6, Tampa Bay 2	1	0	0	0
Kansas City 4, Cleveland 2	1	0	0	0
Toronto 10, Philadelphia 4	1	0	0	0
St. Louis 10, Kansas City 1	1	0	0	0
Atlanta 10, Detroit 4	1	0	0	0
Los Angeles 7, San Diego 3	1	0	0	0
Pittsburgh 4, Cincinnati 1	1	0	0	0
New York Mets 2, Houston 1	1	0	0	0
Seattle 3, Oakland 2	1	0	0	0
San Francisco 4, Colorado 3	1	0	0	0
San Diego 7, Chicago White Sox 6	1	0	0	0
Arizona 6, Chicago Cubs 5	1	0	0	0
San Francisco 4, Milwaukee 3	1	0	0	0
Florida 4, Baltimore 3	1	0	0	0
Detroit 5, New York Yankees 3	1	0	0	0

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS	W	L	P	GB
ATLANTIC DIVISION				
Miami	18	5	783	0
Orlando	17	7	708	1
New York	14	9	609	4
Philadelphia	13	9	591	4 1/2
Washington	9	13	469	8 1/2
Boston	9	12	429	9 1/2
New Jersey	4	18	182	13 1/2
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Indiana	15	7	682	0
Atlanta	12	7	571	2 1/2
Charlotte	12	10	545	5 1/2
Detroit	12	11	522	6 1/2
Cleveland	10	10	500	8 1/2
San Antonio	9	12	429	9 1/2
Charlotte	7	14	333	12 1/2
Chicago	6	16	273	9
PACIFIC DIVISION				
Utah	18	4	818	0
San Antonio	17	7	708	1
Portland	15	9	625	4
Minnesota	13	10	565	5 1/2
Dallas	8	16	323	11 1/2
Denver	6	17	261	14 1/2
Vancouver	4	19	174	16 1/2
WESTERN DIVISION				
L.A. Clippers	22	17	718	0
Boston	21	17	708	1
Phoenix	20	17	682	2 1/2
San Antonio	19	17	657	3 1/2
San Diego	18	17	632	4 1/2
Golden State	17	17	607	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	1	21	445	16 1/2
WESTERN DIVISION				
Portland	22	17	718	0
Boston	21	17	708	1
Phoenix	20	17	682	2 1/2
San Antonio	19	17	657	3 1/2
San Diego	18	17	632	4 1/2
Golden State	17	17	607	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	1	21	445	16 1/2

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS	W	L	T	P	GF	GA
ATLANTIC DIVISION						
New Jersey	27	26	5	10	145	145
Buffalo	25	22	10	15	156	156
Philadelphia	22	27	10	15	167	167
Pittsburgh	20	29	9	17	159	159
N.Y. Islanders	19	31	9	17	158	158
CENTRAL DIVISION						
St. Louis	27	26	5	10	145	145
San Jose	25	22	10	15	156	156
Minnesota	22	27	10	15	167	167
Florida	20	29	9	17	159	159
Tampa Bay	14	36	5	17	124	244
WESTERN DIVISION						
Colorado	24	25	8	16	164	164
Calgary	23	26	10	15	156	156
Edmonton	23	26	10	15	156	156
Vancouver	20	27	11	15	163	209
PACIFIC DIVISION						
Los Angeles	24	25	8	16	164	164
San Jose	23	26	10	15	156	156
San Jose	23	26	10	15	156	156
San Jose	23	26	10	15	156	156

CRICKET

NEW ZEALAND VS. SAFRICA	W	L	T	P	GF	GA
THIRD TEST, 1ST DAY						
New Zealand 211-6	1	0	0	0	0	0
SAFRICA 211-6	0	1	0	0	0	0
THIRD TEST, 2ND DAY						
New Zealand 211-6	1	0	0	0	0	0
SAFRICA 211-6	0	1	0	0	0	0

SOCCER

LIBERTADORES CUP	W	L	T	P	GF	GA
GROUP ONE						
Montevideo, Uru. 4, Merida, Ven. 0	1	0	0	0	0	0
GROUP TWO						
Colombia, Colo. 3, Deportivo Cali, Colo. 0	1	0	0	0	0	0
GROUP THREE						
Corinthians 2, Brazil, Palmeiras, Brazil 1	1	0	0	0	0	0
GROUP FOUR						
Spartan, Chile, Peru, 2, Univ. Peru, 2	1	0	0	0	0	0
GROUP FIVE						
Estrella, Colo. 2, Liga de Quito, Colo. 0	1	0	0	0	0	0
GROUP SIX						
Watterman, Bolivia 1, Blooming, Bolivia 0	1	0	0	0	0	0
GROUP SEVEN						
Estrella, Colo. 2, Liga de Quito, Colo. 0	1	0	0	0	0	0
GROUP EIGHT						
Watterman, Bolivia 1, Blooming, Bolivia 0	1	0	0	0	0	0

TRANSITIONS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	T	P	GF	GA
CHICAGO — Reassigned P Luis Andujar, INF Jason Dellatorre, OF Dwight Gooden, INF Remy Maribon, P Aaron Myette, P Tim Lincecum, C David Tolly, P Kip Wells and P Carlos Whittier to their minor-league camps.						
KANSAS CITY — Reassigned OF Mark Quinn to Omaha, PCL, RHP Scott Mullen to Wichita, 1B, and OF Daniel Brown to Wilmington, CL.						
N.Y. YANKEES — Reassigned RHP Mike Budde and INF D'Angelo Jimenez to Columbus, OF the International League, and RHP Luis Delgado to Norwich of the Eastern League. Reassigned RHP Chris Nix, RHP Dave Parnis, C Tim McIntosh, C Jaime						

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POSTCARD

Playtime at Harvard?

By Julie Flaherty
New York Times Service

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — For the first time anyone here can remember, Harvard College is wondering whether it should find a way to get students out of their rooms and away from their books to — gasp — relax and socialize.

A survey by The Harvard Crimson, the student newspaper, brought the question to the forefront last month when it asked undergraduates something that many of them seemed to be too busy to think about: their happiness.

It found, for example, that 64 percent of the students said they stayed in their rooms at least every other weekend to do homework, with about 45 percent saying they would like to stay in less often.

Almost half of the 211 men and 210 women surveyed said they had two hours of free time a day, or less. But even those minutes are not stress-free; about the same number said they often felt guilty about the way they spent that free time.

The telephone survey, conducted over a weekend using a list of undergraduates selected at random from the student directory, arose from a widespread feeling that there was something missing from campus life.

While many institutions of higher education, including Harvard, are playing a growing role in regulating students' behavior outside class — with restrictions on fraternities, alcohol consumption and late-night parties — the Crimson survey raises a question on the other side of that trend: Does a college have a responsibility to make sure its students go out and play?

Not surprisingly, the ad-

ministration is divided on the issue. Archie Epps III, dean of students, said he had tried for years to tell students that misery was not a required course. "I would like to see people slow down and smell the roses, if you would," he said, "and take a moment to enjoy the charm of a Harvard building, and also reflect on those things that could produce a philosophy of life."

He said Harvard owed its students fulfillment, and not just academically.

Harry Lewis, dean of Harvard College, agreed that times have changed: when he was an undergraduate in the 1960s, no one complained about such things. So Lewis said he was surprised that students would turn to the institution to provide a quote-unquote social life, and he added that the term itself had a code meaning: "Going to a party where there is alcohol — that is social life."

He told The Crimson that attending Harvard was "a rare and precious privilege" that should not be wasted. And he pointed out that Harvard had increased its financial aid budget last year, in part to give more free time to students who would otherwise have to get a paying job.

Beyond that, Lewis said, dragging students out of their rooms does not need to be a priority. Many undergraduates agree. Some are happy, some are miserable, and some are happy being miserable. About 13 percent said the success of their Harvard experience was not contingent on their being happy.

Jung Oh, a junior, told The Crimson: "The place expects me to work hard, and I do, and I like it. For me, academic intensity brings happiness."

Branford Marsalis: Making Jazz in Overdrive

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — With a touch of sarcasm, Branford Marsalis, the star of stage, recordings and television, proudly describes himself as "a family man." He used to call himself a "ham."

As often as possible, his four-door Saab stays in the garage at night while he helps his 13-year-old son, Reese, with his homework. Early in the morning, he cooks him a hot breakfast and takes him to school. "I'm the cooker in the house," he loves it. "I cook French food, Indian food, New Orleans food." He lives in suburban Westchester County just north of New York City, where he is busy trying to get his priorities straight.

He thought he was "typecast" in his role as a wisecracking kid in Spike Lee's movie "School Daze." "You really want to pay me for this?" he asked Lee. "I do this every day of my life anyway." He played Wesley Snipes's tenor saxophone on the soundtrack of Lee's "Mo' Better Blues" and Sean Connery's soprano in "The Russia House," and he taught the two of them how to fake it. Currently he is writing a score for a film directed by Laurence Fishburne.

He has played various degrees of himself as part of a black jazz band working for the white rock star Sting, and with his fine quartet — Kenny Kirkland, piano, Bob Hurst, bass, and Jeff "Tain" Watts, drums. About the quartet, he said: "For one brief moment we were the best jazz band in the world. We were the best at what we did. Not many people can say that."

Though it just might be true, critics tend to frown when he talks like that. He tends to talk too much and he knows it. Branford, 38, the elder Marsalis brother, was once known for his wide and ready boyish smile. It is still there but hedged, as though his face muscles have trouble stretching. You wonder if the life of jazz has ground the life out of him.

He has a quick answer to that. To everything, "Life grinds the life out of you. You learn to hone in on the stuff that's really important. You ask yourself, 'Is this what I was put on this earth to do?' Being on the road 300 days a year is not important. Neither is moving to L.A. to be on a big-time television show."

Marsalis was seen by more than 4 million Americans nightly for two and a half years as the leader of the "Tonight" show band. He once described it as playing Rochester to Jay Leno's Jack Benny. The reaction of his peers was kind of like when he had played with Sting — "back to the plantation."

He calls his new quartet album "Requiem" (Columbia), scheduled for April release, "incomplete. Fate intervened." Had the pianist Kenny Kirkland not died, they would have re-recorded most of it. Marsalis explains: "When we were communicating right it sounded like conversation. When it was wrong, it was just jazz. It sounds less like a conversation than like four guys showing off. It will always seem incomplete to me."

As creative consultant to Columbia Records, he is, the company says, "instrumental in shaping the creative direction of the label's jazz department." Marsalis leans back — his loose body language would be improved by an old-fashioned boyish smile — and begins to talk about the record business.

"People always ask how do you get jazz records to sell more. The answer is simple. You don't. Jazz is not about money, never will be. Jazz music lends artistic respectability to a label which their pop stars cannot. Everybody knows this. Except maybe the pop stars. Columbia's shareholders don't talk about Marsalis. They hardly know from Bruce Springsteen. They'll talk about Billie Holiday or Miles Davis, or about my brother Wynton."

Ted Turner tried to start a hostile takeover of CBS back in the '80s, when Michael Jackson was the King of Pop. They wanted some



Marsalis: "Jazz music lends artistic respectability to a label."

of their artists to say to the shareholders that Columbia was a great place and they shouldn't accept the bid. Out of all the artists they could have chosen — Billy Joel, etc. — they sent Wynton to meet the shareholders.

"He was 23 years old. Looked great in a suit. Won a Grammy for jazz and one for classical. That stuff has weight. It's great for the label's image. Why try and make something else out of it? So you have to be reasonable if you don't want to drown in a sea of red ink. You have

to avoid that Christmas-in-July syndrome — sign that big deal, give this cat a hundred grand, limos for everyone."

"When I was with Art Blakey, he started talking about getting a Rolls. He was in his 60s, dying of cancer, he was sort of reviewing his life. Everybody was saying, 'Yeah, man, you deserve a Rolls.' I was the only guy telling him not to. I told him the repo man will get it. Sure enough, six weeks later that was the end of the Rolls. I felt sorry for him. He didn't have a home, he had no

relationship with his children, he didn't have a woman. He had the young guys in his band, whom he barely knew. All he had was the road."

The road is not much fun. Marsalis is talking faster. Last summer, a promoter in Warsaw set up a radio broadcast in violation of their contract. Marsalis refused to play. The band just sat there in the dressing room. It got to be 11:30, an hour late. They were going to have to ride a bus all night to the next gig. The audience was whistling and booing this prima donna musician.

Marsalis realized that even if the promoter said, "O.K., we won't broadcast," he would still have to find somebody to "run around and make sure the snake isn't plugged." There was really no choice. He decided to go on anyway. He would probably even enjoy listening to the bootleg album of the broadcast that was bound to come out sooner or later.

Later on the same tour, a German promoter could not raise the up-front payment the contract called for. So Marsalis sat there again, reflecting on somber reality. Here he was supposedly at the top of the jazz heap, and he was still dealing with bottom-feeding businessmen.

"Don't worry," the man said. "I'll pay you right after the concert." Sure. One of his musicians laughed out loud. "Now you know why Miles played rock." Right.

"Do the Spice Girls have to sit in the dressing room and say where's the money? Does Pavarotti? It's all about disrespect for jazz music. Do critics write reviews to disseminate meaningful information or is it just to prove that they're more masculine than the musicians? A critic said that a record of mine was 'nothing new.' I had never claimed it was new. I've always been very assertive about being creative by going through the tradition, not at the expense of the tradition. Anyway, it's impossible to play anything new. We all play the same 12 notes."

PEOPLE



PHOTO CALL — A sea of placards reserving seats for the actors and entertainers who will make presentations at the 71st Academy Awards ceremony Sunday at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.

THE ACTOR Richard Dreyfuss cannot applaud the man he calls "the bogeyman of my youth." Ella Kazan, the director who won Oscars for "Gentleman's Agreement" in 1947 and "On the Waterfront" in 1954, will be given a lifetime achievement award during Academy Awards ceremonies on Sunday. The tribute does not sit well with some in Hollywood, including Dreyfuss. Kazan joined the Communist Party in the 1930s, but resigned soon after World War II. Called before the House Committee on Un-American Activities during the 1950s, Kazan admitted his past and named Communist sympathizers in Hollywood. "He was first an icon, and then a bogeyman of my youth," Dreyfuss wrote in an opinion piece for the Los Angeles Times, "falling like the central character in some Greek myth from hero to villain in the twinkling of an eye." He added: "His work has not been neglected, and he has not gone without honor. Let that suffice."

The hip-hop star Lauryn Hill made her return to Doug Tracht, a radio shock

jack in Virginia known as the "Grease-man," during a concert Tuesday at Constitution Hall. Tracht lost his job at WARW-FM for playing a Hill song, then making a racist comment about dragging black people behind trucks. Before singing the same song, "Doo Wop (That Thing)," to a sold-out

house, Hill thanked Washington for not letting a "certain deejay" get away with his remark. Then she chanted, "Respect, respect, respect, respect." The crowd erupted in cheers.

Jimmy Carter and his wife, Ros-

New Uproar for Embattled Royal Family

Agence France-Press

LONDON — This city's tabloid newspapers are in a tizzy over a report that Britain's Queen Mother has run up a huge overdraft because of her lavish lifestyle.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 98, has long been seen by much of the press as a national treasure, but a report in the Sunday Times has threatened that title. The newspaper said she had run up a debt of £4 million (\$6.4 million) at the royal bank Coutts, despite an annual income from the Civil List — public money given to the senior royals — of £443,000 a year.

A columnist at the normally royal-friendly Sun tabloid slammed the Queen Mother for "spending money like it's going out of fashion." And a column in the equally pro-royal Daily Mail was even more critical, comparing the Queen Mother's lifestyle with those of old-age pensioners who had to sell their possessions to make ends meet. The Independent, meanwhile, ran a piece Thursday headlined, "Tabloids turn tables on Queen Mother."

alynn, have been honored for their efforts to help children. The former president and first lady were presented Unicef's 1999 International Child Survival Award during a dinner in Atlanta to benefit the United Nations Children's Fund. Since leaving office in 1981, Carter and his wife have continued their involvement in international humanitarian affairs. In 1982, they formed The Carter Center, a nonprofit organization created to promote peace and fight disease in neighborhoods and nations around the world.

Speaking at a children's television conference in Los Angeles, the comedian Bill Cosby fished out at shows that degrade minorities. "And I'm saying this is done on purpose," he said. "This stereotyping, it hurts because someone sitting behind a desk said, 'This is what I want black people to look like.' About 500 people attended 'Through the Eyes of Children,' which was sponsored by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences."

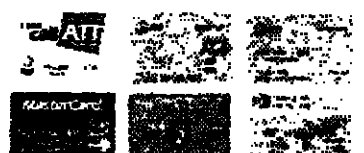


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